

**COLLEGE FOOTBALL:** Big test for Bulldogs, Irish **Back page**

**MOVIES:** Brad Pitt stellar in 'Ad Astra' **Page 36**

**MUSIC:** After 5-year break, the Black Keys return **Page 27**

EUROPE  
& PACIFIC  
**WEEKEND**  
EDITION



**TELEVISION**  
Ken Burns series 'Country Music' includes stories of Americans at war  
**Page 24**  
**Review on Page 23**

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## AFGHANISTAN



AHMAD WALI SARRAH/AP

An injured man is carried after a suicide attack outside a hospital in Zabul, Afghanistan, on Thursday.

## Iran's top diplomat threatens 'all-out war'

By JON GAMBRELL  
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Iran's top diplomat said Thursday that any attack on his country in response to a drone-and-missile strike on Saudi Arabia's oil industry will result in "all-out war," further increasing tensions across the Persian Gulf.

The comments by Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif represented the starkest warning yet by Iran in a long summer of mysterious attacks and incidents following

the collapse of Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, more than a year after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from the accord.

Zarif's comments also appeared to be a response to U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who a day earlier while traveling to Saudi Arabia referred to Saturday's attack as an "act of war."

■ **Attack on Saudis exposes gaps in US weapons**  
**Page 9**

SEE IRAN ON PAGE 9



VINCENT THIAN/AP

Iran Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, above, further fueled the fire around the Persian Gulf on Thursday, a day after U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called an attack on Saudi oil installations an "act of war."

# The carnage continues

## Suicide bomber strikes outside hospital; US taking heat over airstrike

By TAMEEM AKHGAR AND KATHY GANNON  
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A powerful suicide truck bomb devastated a hospital in southern Afghanistan early Thursday morning, killing 20 people and wounding 97 others, according to the province's governor, while a deadly drone strike in the country's east was blamed on U.S. forces.

The Taliban, who claimed responsibility for the sui-

cide bombing, have carried out nearly daily attacks since peace talks with the U.S. collapsed this month.

Thursday's massive explosion destroyed part of the hospital in Qalat, the capital of southern Zabul province, and left a fleet of ambulances broken and battered.

Local residents, many of whom had come to see their sick family members, used shawls and blankets to carry the wounded inside the destroyed building, while authorities scrambled to take the worst of the wounded

SEE CARNAGE ON PAGE 8

■ **US rescinds \$100 million from Afghan government over corruption**  
**Page 7**

# EUROPE

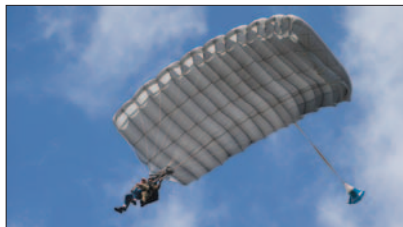


PHOTOS BY PETER DEJONG/AP

Tom Rice, a 98-year-old WWII veteran, and U.S. Ambassador Pete Hoekstra, right, pose with the American flag after landing with a tandem parachute jump from a plane near Groesbeek, Netherlands, on Thursday.



Parachutists jump from a plane near Groesbeek, Netherlands, on Thursday as part of commemorations marking the 75th anniversary of Operation Market Garden.



Rice approaches the landing zone.

## At 98, D-Day vet jumps again, with eyes on 100

Associated Press

GROESBEEK, Netherlands — Jump by jump, 98-year-old D-Day veteran Tom Rice is nudging closer to his goal of leaping out of planes at age 100.

The American who caused a sensation in June by parachuting into Normandy for the 75th anni-

versary of the 1944 D-Day landings was at it again on Thursday. This time, his landing zone was in the Netherlands.

Strapped to a younger parachutist who steered their canopy, Rice jumped as part of commemorations for the massive landings of airborne Allied troops in September 1944.

He described the jump as “perfect” and said: “I’m going to do it until I’m 100.”

Rice jumped with the U.S. Army’s 101st Airborne Division in World War II.

Hundreds of other parachutists also sailed over the Netherlands on Thursday to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Opera-

tion Market Garden, a 1944 land-and-airborne thrust through the country.

Allied strategists hoped the assault would clear a path toward Nazi Germany’s industrial heartland and hasten the end of the war. But ground troops got bogged down, leaving airborne soldiers who’d jumped ahead

of the thrust outnumbered and outgunned.

The military bungle was immortalized in the Hollywood film and Cornelius Ryan’s book “A Bridge Too Far.”

More Allied troops — about 11,500 — died in the nine days of Operation Market Garden than in the D-Day landings.

### TODAY IN STRIPES

American Roundup ..... 18  
Business ..... 20  
Comics ..... 42, 46-47  
Faces ..... 43  
Opinion ..... 44-45  
Sports ..... 54-64  
Weather ..... 20  
Weekend ..... 21-42

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## MILITARY

# Overdue honor

## WWII 'Hero of Cologne' receives valor award nearly 75 years after famous tank battle

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — With the help of his cane, 96-year-old Clarence Smoyer stood before the shining marble fountains of the World War II Memorial on the National Mall on Wednesday and rendered a sharp salute, admiring the Bronze Star Medal with combat "V" for valor pinned to the lapel of his 3rd Armored Division jacket.

It was a moment that had been a long time coming — almost 75 years. Smoyer had earned the moniker the "Hero of Cologne" as a 21-year-old tank gunner credited with destroying the seemingly unstoppable German Panther IV tank blocking the U.S. Army's 3rd Armored Division's march to the Rhine River in the waning months of the second World War. But Smoyer and most of his crew had never received combat awards for heroism, and he wasn't prepared Wednesday, when the Army finally presented it.

"I was real surprised," said the soft-spoken Pennsylvanian, who arrived at the memorial Wednesday morning expecting to visit as a tourist. He said he had long ago given up on receiving the valor award he was promised for his actions March 6, 1945.

"It's an honor," he said Wednesday of receiving the Bronze Star. "I wear the medal in memory of all the young boys who lost their lives there during that time."

Families of three deceased members of his tank crew were also awarded the Bronze Star with "V" at the ceremony Wednesday, making the crew — known as Eagle 7 — among the most decorated in Army history, with five Bronze Stars for valor. Medals were accepted Wednesday for Pfc. Homer L. Davis, Pfc. John S. DeRigo and Tech. Cpl. William D. McVey.

### The battle

After arriving in France just weeks after D-Day, Smoyer knocked out his first tank in September 1944 in Mons, Belgium. He would later be credited with the destruction of five.

When the United States set its sights on Cologne, Smoyer and his crew were tasked with spearheading the invasion. He recalled the fear he felt as they rolled into Cologne, the bombed-out shell of Germany's third largest city, where the enemy was sure to be dug in.

Over the radio, the unit's commander gave Smoyer and the other tankers one final instruction.

"He said, 'Gentlemen, I give you Cologne. Let's knock the hell out of it,'" Smoyer said. "And we obliged."

He fired the first shot of the



**Above: WWII veteran Clarence Smoyer, 96, has a Bronze Star medal pinned to his jacket by Army Maj. Peter Semanoff during a ceremony at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday. Left: Smoyer and fellow WWII veteran Joe Caserta stand in front of a Sherman tank.**  
PHOTOS BY CARLOS BONGIOANNI/Stars and Stripes

battle, he said, turning his gun on a clock tower, where German forces were likely waiting.

He was in an M26 Pershing tank, one of about 20 quietly sent to the European front lines for battlefield testing as a replacement for the M4 Sherman.

On March 6, Smoyer and the massive 90mm gun of his M26 Pershing were called upon to face down a German Panther IV tank harassing American forces. The Panther had destroyed a Sherman, killed several U.S. soldiers, and it had left other crews paralyzed, knowing an attempt to destroy the superior Panther likely meant death.

The entire episode, caught on film by a U.S. Army cameraman, would last only 45 seconds. McVey wheeled the Pershing

into an intersection, where the crew believed that Smoyer would be able to fire on the Panther's flank. Instead, they found themselves staring down the barrel of the Nazi tank's gun, Smoyer recalled.

McVey pushed the gas pedal to the floor. Smoyer fired three successive shots — setting the Panther ablaze in the shadows of Cologne's towering gothic cathedral and earning him the "Hero" moniker he still brushes off, almost 75 years later.

In Adam Makos' bestselling book "Spearhead," on the exploits of Smoyer and Eagle 7 in the final months of World War II, the author describes the moments when the crew members realized they had won the short-lived battle.

"Clarence sat back from the

periscope, still stunned by the previous 40 or 50 seconds of furious action. Did that really happen?" Makos wrote. "After some time, Clarence broke the silence in the tank. 'That was close,' he said."

### The Bronze Star

Smoyer earned fame as a hero when news programs back in the United States played the grainy, black-and-white footage of the fight filmed by Sgt. Jim Bates. However, Smoyer did not receive a valor award, which he was promised in the wake of the battle.

He believes another action the next day cost him the Bronze Star that his lieutenant had requested.

With fighting lulled the next

day, Smoyer was walking the streets of Cologne when a pair of German children approached him looking for bubble gum, which American soldiers were known to carry.

"I tried to explain to them I didn't have anything," he said, describing how he flipped his pockets inside out to show they were empty. "I took them by the hand back to their mother, and when I turned and started to walk away, the [U.S. military policemen] pulled up beside me."

The United States had a policy barring fraternization of any kind with Germans, including women and children. The MPs wrote Smoyer a citation for "talking to the enemy."

"I think that caused me to lose the Bronze Star," he said Wednesday.

While interviewing Smoyer for his book about two years ago, Makos was appalled to learn of the apparent injustice.

"When he first told me about that I couldn't believe it," said Makos, who worked with Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., to secure the Bronze Star for Smoyer. "How do we go back 75 years and make this right?"

A frantic search through Army records turned up a Bronze Star earned in Cologne on March 6, 1945, Makos said Wednesday. Another member of Smoyer's crew, Staff Sgt. Bob Early, received it for his part in destroying the Panther. More digging revealed that Bates, the combat cameraman, had also received a Bronze Star for filming the battle.

"What about the man that pulled the trigger?" Makos said.

The author said he worried that Smoyer would not receive his overdue award during his lifetime. Through a friend, word of Makos' effort reached the upper ranks in the Pentagon.

Eventually an Army awards board reviewed his case and determined that not only did Smoyer deserve the Bronze Star, but that the entire crew of Eagle 7 had earned the valor award that day, Makos said.

"They're all getting the Bronze Star," Makos said. "Well done to the Army for going above and beyond to recognize the teamwork of this crew."

Smoyer still refers to that crew as his family.

They went through the toughest moments of their lives together in the bowels of a tank. He said they fought for one another, and it was only appropriate that they be honored together — even if it had to come nearly 75 years later.

"It's all for them," Smoyer said Wednesday. "I will always honor that."

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**Tank gunner Clarence Smoyer, top middle, is seen with other members of the U.S. Army's 3rd Armored Division in Germany.**



## MILITARY



U.S. Africa Command

In his visit to Niger on Thursday, Army Gen. Stephen Townsend, commander of U.S. Africa Command — shown in Djibouti last month — told American troops that the West African nation remains central to the military's regional strategy.

## In Niger, AFRICOM chief praises ally's anti-terrorism efforts

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. Africa Command's Gen. Stephen Townsend met with American troops in Niger on Thursday during a visit to assess security in West Africa, which is grappling to counter several Islamic militant groups.

Townsend's visit to Niger, his first since he took over as head of AFRICOM in July, came in the midst of a 90-day review ordered by Defense Secretary Mark Esper into whether the U.S. should hold force levels on the African continent steady or make additional cuts.

U.S. troops are training with their Nigerian counterparts in a country that has proven dangerous but remains central to the military's strategy in the region.

"Niger has been a willing and engaged partner in the fight against violent extremist organizations," Townsend said. "Niger is committed to building its defense capacity and containing and degrading terrorist networks in Africa."

An ambush in which militants killed four U.S. soldiers in October 2017 brought intense scrutiny to operations in the country and raised questions about the purpose of the American mission. While the U.S. has scaled back some of its operations and shifted more of its focus to higher level unit training rather than joint combat patrols in Niger, there are still risks. In June, American troops escaped serious injury when the U.S. military vehicle in which they were traveling hit a roadside bomb.

Despite the dangers, the U.S. appears committed to keeping forces in Niger for the long haul.

In August, the U.S. Air Force began flying surveillance aircraft out of a new base in central

Niger that has been years in the making. Known as Nigerian Air Base 201 in Agadez, the site is expected to improve intelligence gathering in the region.

AFRICOM has said operations there will expand over time.

"Nigerian Air Base 201 will ultimately possess an ability to support an array of aircraft and missions to include added ISR operations," AFRICOM said in a statement, referring to intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations. The capabilities that the base will eventually have "will benefit the entire region," Townsend said.

Townsend's visit, which included meetings with senior Nigerian defense officials and the country's president, Mahamoud Issoufou, was part of a tour through the region. Earlier in the week, he held talks with officials in neighboring Mali and Burkina Faso.

Numerous extremist groups, including Nigeria-based Boko Haram, have brought instability to West Africa, including the Lake Chad basin region, which includes parts of Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria.

ISIS-West Africa has also become a top security concern for AFRICOM since it broke away from Boko Haram three years ago. That group routinely launches cross-border attacks in Niger.

While extremist groups in West Africa don't pose a direct threat to the U.S. homeland now, military officials worry they could, if left unchecked.

Ambassador Eric P. Whitaker said the U.S. will continue to train and equip Nigerian forces to counter regional threats.

"Our goal is to enable Niger's defense and security forces to develop and sustain a professional force and contribute to peacekeeping efforts," Whitaker said.

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# After deaths, USAF might split fitness assessment

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force is considering changes to the way it conducts fitness assessments to prevent airmen from over-taxing their bodies to try to meet test standards, the service's top enlisted leader said.

On the heels of three deaths earlier this year that occurred after physical training, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright said the service may follow the Army and separate, by a week or more, the abdominal circumference measurement portion of the test from the physically challenging component, which includes timed pushups, sit-ups and a run.

The idea would be to avoid testing airmen when they may not be at peak performance levels — or worse, in a weakened state after trying to lose weight quickly to reduce their waist size and lose weight ahead of the test.

"We have airmen who go to great lengths to get a good score on the abdominal circumference," Wright said. "So, they take certain things, they starve themselves, they go out of their way (to pass) because it counts for 20% of the test. And then they try to run or do the other components."

An airman's waist measurement is used to calculate a body composition score. The timed run is worth up to 60% of the score and one-minute counts of pushups and sit-ups each make up 10%. Airmen must meet minimum in each category and achieve a combined score of at least 75 points to pass.

"We've had airmen that have lost their lives, we've had airmen that have become injured," Wright said.

Three airmen died in the hospital shortly after completing physical fitness assessments this year. The most recent death occurred last month at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., where Capt. Tranay Tanner, 29, died less than 24 hours after completing her fitness test.

Officials at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., briefly suspended fitness testing in June after Amalia Joseph and Aaron Hall, both senior airmen from the same squadron, died within days of finishing their fitness assessments. Results from investigations into the three deaths have not been made public.

The Air Force is looking at implementing a policy like the Army's, which encourages commanders and supervisors to allow a minimum of seven days between the two components of the fitness test, Wright said.

"Some soldiers ... may attempt to lose weight quickly in the days leading up to a weigh-in," Army regulations state. "This practice



CASSIE MORLOCK/U.S. Air Force

In an effort to prevent airmen from over-taxing their bodies, the Air Force is considering administering the abdominal circumference test at a separate time from the rest of its physical fitness assessment.

may result in the soldier being unable to perform his or her best on the [Army Physical Fitness Test], if the two events are scheduled close together."

Other fitness program changes being considered, Wright said, include a trial test, where airmen could attempt the assessment within their testing window. "If you pass, good, if you don't, no harm, no foul," Wright said.

Another change being mulled is measuring an airman's VO2 max — or how efficiently the body uses oxygen — using something other than the current 1.5-mile run.

"Not everybody's a runner," Wright said. "We want to be able to measure VO2 max by rowing, by swimming and by cycling."

All four services have been bat-

ting expanding waistlines and increasing numbers of heat injuries during training in recent years.

Earlier this year, the Navy issued guidance calling for closer monitoring of its fitness tests and created a "bad day" do-over option after four sailors died in fitness-related incidents in the previous 12 months.

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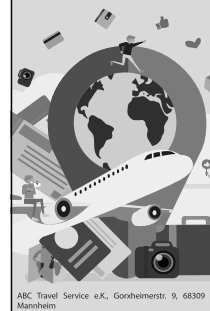
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ANDY MORATAVA/U.S. Air Force

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright said other fitness program changes being considered include a trial test, where airmen could attempt the assessment within their testing window. "If you pass, good, if you don't, no harm, no foul," he said.



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## MILITARY

# Dems block DOD bill amid border wall battle

By ANDREW TAYLOR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats Wednesday blocked debate on the almost \$700 billion Pentagon budget and other spending bills amid a feud between the chamber's leaders over the rules of engagement for translating this summer's hard-won budget deal into binding legislation.

Minority Leader Chuck Schumer orchestrated the party-line filibuster vote, claiming Senate GOP leaders were doing President Donald Trump's bidding on the U.S.-Mexico border fence and paying for it by shortchanging health and education programs. Both sides accused the other of violating the bipartisan spirit of July's budget blueprint, which gave Trump a must-have increase in the government's borrowing limit and new spending "caps" to avert sweeping cuts to the Pentagon and domestic programs.

Democrats are chiefly upset that the Senate GOP would permit Trump to again shift money from

military accounts to wall funding that he has otherwise been unable to win from Congress. He's seeking \$5 billion more after winning only \$1.4 billion for the current year.

"It does nothing to prevent the president from stealing billions of dollars more from our troops to pay for the president's cynical campaign promise to build a gigantic wall across our southern border," said top Appropriations Committee Democrat Patrick Leahy of Vermont. "The president has already raided \$6.1 billion from Department of Defense accounts in the fiscal year 2019 bills for his border wall — all without congressional approval."

Also at play is Democrats' desire to hold the Pentagon budget back as leverage in future endgame negotiations.

Republicans countered that Democrats are injecting abortion- and wall-related fights with Trump into a time-tested appropriations process that relies on bipartisanship and compromise that is in increasingly short sup-

ply in the halls of Congress.

"Congressional leaders and the president laid the groundwork for sensible, bipartisan funding process. But instead over the past week and a half, we've seen our Democratic colleagues suggest that they may try to shoehorn their long-standing disagreements with President Trump into this appropriation process," McConnell said. The Kentucky Republican said Democrats should chill out and let the process advance — knowing that Democrats controlling the House will have their back in upcoming negotiations.

Also Wednesday, House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., introduced a bipartisan stopgap spending bill to keep the government running at current levels until Thanksgiving. The routine measure contains numerous additions to extend expiring programs, including billions of dollars to replenish Trump's bailout to farmers buffeted by his trade battles with China.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

**Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., joined at right by Sen. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., pauses during a news conference at the Capitol in Washington, on Tuesday.**

House Democrats, who have passed most of the spending bills under terms generous to domestic agencies, are eager to kick-start negotiations in hopes of wrapping up the \$1.4 trillion appropriations bundle before Thanksgiving.

It's unclear what the next steps will be, though both sides have come too far to let a spat over tactics derail the spending bills, which are main must-do business for Congress each year. The ultimate backstop for Senate Democrats is House Speaker Nancy

Pelosi, who will play a key role in talks down the road and is chiefly interested in getting negotiations underway.

To buy time, both House and Senate are set to pass the government-wide stopgap spending bill unveiled Wednesday, which would keep the lights on through Nov. 21. There seems to be no risk of a government shutdown when the budget year ends on Sept. 30, as fights over the wall and other hot-button issues are being put off until later.

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## MILITARY

# Trump calls wall a 'world-class security system'

By KEVIN FREKING  
AND ELLIOT SPAGAT  
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — President Donald Trump signed his name on a newly constructed section of the U.S.-Mexico border wall, calling it a "world-class security system" that will be virtually impenetrable.

Trump toured a section of the border wall in San Diego's Otay Mesa area on Wednesday. It was a return trip for the Republican president, who traveled there in March 2018 to see border wall prototypes that authorities later destroyed to make way for 14 miles of steel, concrete-filled bollards currently under construction.

Before construction began, the border in San Diego was protected by an initial layer of sheet metal that was easily blow-torched and a second, more formidable layer that could be compromised with a powerful, battery-operated saws.

"It was like a sheet metal, and people would just knock it over like just routinely," Trump said, referring to the initial layer that was replaced. He stood with construction workers and top Customs and Border Protection, Army Corps of Engineers and homeland security officials.

"I'm here to tell you that's false," he said, telling report-

ers that Trump reached out to border experts to find out what they needed. "You listened to the agents," he told Trump.

Trump highlighted features of the wall, which he said have been studied by three other countries. He said the wall absorbs heat — "You can fry an egg on that wall." The concrete goes deep into the ground to prevent tunneling. And agents can see through it to spot possible threats on the Mexican side of the border, he said.

"When the wall is built, it will be virtually impossible to come over illegally, and then we're able to take border control and put them at points of entry," Trump said.

He heaped praise on the Mexican government, especially for sending tens of thousands of troops to its northern and southern borders to help slow the flow of migrants headed toward the United States. He said President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador "has been great."

"We're all thrilled," Trump said. "You know Mexico has never done anything to impede people from pouring into our country and now they're doing just the opposite. They're really been incredible."

The president reveled in details of construction, saying Border Patrol and military officials persuaded him to adopt more expensive designs. He said he dropped a preference for solid concrete, instead opting for concrete-filled steel bollards that allow agents to see through to Mexico to spot as-



PHOTOS BY EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Donald Trump tours a section of the southern border wall, on Wednesday, in Otay Mesa, Calif.



President Donald Trump signs his name as he tours a section of the southern border wall, on Wednesday, in Otay Mesa, Calif.

sailants throwing rocks or other projectiles. He agreed to go along with barriers that are 30 feet high and double-layered in heavily traveled areas.

"It's the Rolls-Royce version,"

Trump said.

When Trump asked Army Corps Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite to explain how technology embedded in the wall alerts agents to illegal activity, he was told, "Sir,

there could be some merit in not discussing it."

Semonite offered new details on the pace of construction that underscored how quickly the administration plans to move.

It has built 66 miles, has 251 miles in various stages of construction at 17 sites and has contracts for 163 miles planned in the next 90 days, the general said. Additional land on private property is expected to take more time.

Crews are installing 270 panels a day, each one with eight bollards.

Trump, whose construction targets have shifted, said he expects to build up to about 550 miles of wall along the 1,954-mile border and said the administration will pause at about 400 miles to assess what more is needed.

Trump said cost concerns led him to put aside his preference to paint the wall black, which absorbs heat. He said the wall was "a good, strong rust color" and could be painted later.

## 3 border wall projects delayed because of fund shortfall

By ROSE L. THAYER  
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — Three projects to build barriers along the U.S.-Mexico border must be delayed because the Pentagon does not have enough money to complete them, a Defense Department official revealed in court documents.

The projects were authorized Aug. 26 after Pentagon officials determined cost savings from previous wall construction contracts could be used for additional barriers at the southern border. But the savings were less than estimated and the projects are on hold now, according to court documents in an ongoing legal battle to stop Defense Department dollars from being used to build the wall.

The savings from contract negotiations were projected to be about \$400 million, said Lt. Col. Chris Mitchell, a Defense Department spokesman, who confirmed Wednesday that the Pentagon no longer plans to complete the three projects.

Kenneth Rapuano, assistant secretary of defense for homeland defense and global security, wrote in the court documents filed Friday that the Army Corps of Engineers informed him that the cost savings previously identified are insufficient to undertake the three additional projects. For that reason, the department decided not to pursue the projects, he wrote.

The court documents are part of a lawsuit filed in California by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of the Sierra Club and the Southern Border Communities Coalition to stop Pentagon funds from being used to build the border wall. The Supreme Court in July ruled against a hold on the funds related to the lawsuit, which is now in the hands of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The three projects, located in Arizona, would have totaled 20 additional miles built along with 120 miles of wall funded through \$2.5 billion transferred to the Army Corps of Engineers from drug in-

terdiction funds. Former acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan approved the initial funding of border projects earlier this year, following plans outlined in President Donald Trump's Feb. 15 declaration of a national emergency at the border.

"Given the lack of anticipated savings, the department cannot pursue these three additional projects at this time; however, [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers] is still on track to complete the original 129 miles of border barrier as requested by the Department of Homeland Security and [Customs and Border Protection] and approved by the secretary of defense," Mitchell said.

Earlier this month, Defense Secretary Mark Esper approved \$3.6 billion from the military construction budget to fund another 175 miles of wall through 11 projects — a move that has not gone over well with some Democrat lawmakers.

"Trump's decision to build his vanity wall with funds stolen from military construction projects and homeland se-

curity initiatives isn't really about border security. It's about politics," Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., said during a Sept. 12 speech. "If he actually wanted to secure the border, he wouldn't strip away funding from the dedicated men and women who are responsible for defending it."

Esper and defense officials have said none of the 127 military construction projects losing money for the border wall will be delayed or canceled if Congress agrees to backfill the projects in the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020, which is now in a congressional conference committee to sort out differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill.

The House voted down a Republican-backed motion Tuesday to instruct the conference committee to support backfilling those projects. The vote was mostly along party lines.

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## WAR/MILITARY

# US takes back \$100M over Afghan corruption

By KATHY GANNON

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Washington is taking back \$100 million intended for an Afghan energy infrastructure project, citing unacceptably high levels of corruption in the Afghan government, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced Thursday in a harshly worded statement.

The U.S. will still finish the massive project, Pompeo said, which involves five power substations and a maze of transmission lines in southern Afghanistan. It just won't be spending the money through Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's government, blaming the "Afghan government's inability to transparently manage U.S. Government resources."

Washington is withholding another \$60 million in additional aid, saying Ghani's government has been neither transparent nor accountable in its public spending. The U.S. is also cutting off all financial assistance to the Afghan government's Monitoring and Evaluation Committee, saying it's not doing its job and "is incapable of being a partner in the international effort to build a better future for the Afghan people."

After 18 years of war and more than \$800 billion dollars spent in Afghanistan — the biggest chunk on security, including the cost of U.S. forces in Afghanistan — this is one of the rare times Washington has withdrawn money from the Afghan government, which is almost entirely dependent on international assistance.

"American taxpayers and the Afghan people can count on the United States to act when we see assistance funds misused," Pompeo said in the statement.

Yet Washington's own watchdog, Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction John F. Sopko, has pointed out in suc-



MANDEL NGAN/AP

**Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Thursday the U.S. is taking back \$100 million intended for an Afghan energy infrastructure project. The U.S. will finish the project, but won't spend the money through Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's government.**

cessive reports dating back nine years that there's been hundreds of millions of dollars in missing U.S. money, corrupt contracts and wasteful spending.

Thursday's announcement and pun-

ishing sanctions on Ghani's government would also seem to be intended to reinforce Pompeo's earlier call for a "credible and transparent presidential election" when Afghans go to the polls Sept. 28.

The 2014 Afghan presidential election was marred by allegations of massive fraud, as was last year's parliamentary vote.

When asked about the sanctions during a stop in the United Arab Emirates, Pompeo told reporters: "We've been very clear we want ... free and fair elections. We're going to do everything we can to support them... We need every actor in the region, every leader, every citizen in Afghanistan to work toward that end."

Until President Donald Trump abruptly called off talks with the Taliban last week, which had been a year in the making, Afghan presidential elections did not seem likely despite Ghani's relentless insistence that they be held. Other candidates for the country's highest position had put their campaigns on hold after U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad declared a U.S.-Taliban deal was all but done.

Ghani's government had been mostly sidelined during negotiations. His national security adviser, Hamdullah Mohib, even went to Washington earlier this year to take personal swipes at Khalilzad, accusing him of "delegitimizing" the Afghan government and selling out Afghanistan. These comments to the press incurred Pompeo's wrath, and the secretary of state made a statement in support of Khalilzad.

Following Mohib's outbursts, U.S. Embassy officials in Kabul refused to attend meetings at the presidential palace if Mohib was present.

In his earlier statement addressing the upcoming presidential polls, Pompeo said: "Afghan voters who risk their lives to participate in elections deserve to know the outcome accurately reflects the voters' choice ... We hold all candidates accountable to the code of conduct they signed."

## Higher amount seen spent on troops at Trump resort

The Washington Post

The U.S. military has spent more than \$184,000 at President Donald Trump's golf resort in Scotland since he took office, far more than previously known, according to documents released Wednesday by the House Oversight Committee.

The figure was disclosed in letters exchanged between the Pentagon and top Democrats on the committee, which is probing whether Trump has violated a constitutional provision that prevents presidents from enriching themselves through the office.

The Air Force has used Glasgow Prestwick Airport with greater frequency during Trump's presidency, placing some of its crews at Trump Turnberry, which is about 30 miles away, during overnight stopovers in Scotland.

In a letter dated Wednesday, leaders of the Democratic-led committee voiced frustration with the limited scope of a response last week from the Pentagon to requests for detailed information on the cost of the stays.

"Although the Department's response is belated and deficient, it still reveals that far more taxpayer funds have been spent at the

President's resort than previously known," said the letter signed by House Oversight Chairman Elijah Cummings, D-Md., and Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., a subcommittee chairman.

The congressmen said information provided by the Pentagon indicated that taxpayer funds had been used to pay for more than three dozen separate stays, significantly more than have come to light in recent news coverage.

The letter from the Pentagon relayed that it had tallied \$124,578.96 in expenditures "specifically associated with the Trump Turnberry." The letter said that amounted to an average of \$189.04 per overnight stay, which it said was significantly less than an allowable per diem. The Pentagon also identified an additional \$59,729 in expenditures that the House Oversight committee leaders said was associated with Turnberry.

Earlier this month, the Air Force announced a review of its selection of lodging accommodations amid heightened scrutiny of its decision to place crews at Trump's property, acknowledging that it "might be allowable but not advisable."

## ACCOMPLISH WHAT OTHERS CAN'T

U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS



## WAR ON TERRORISM

# SIGAR: Taliban fighters must rejoin society

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN  
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Taliban fighters could join other militant groups in Afghanistan, such as the Islamic State group, if the United States does not help reintegrate them into Afghan society once a peace deal has been struck, a U.S. watchdog said this week.

"If ex-combatants are not accepted by their communities or are unable to find a new livelihood, they may be vulnerable to recruitment by criminal groups or terrorist organizations like the Islamic State," a report by the Special Inspector for Afghanistan Reconstruction cautioned.

Recent talks between American and Taliban officials aimed at ending the U.S.'s longest war highlighted the need to incorporate an estimated 150,000 insurgents into the military, government and other areas, to make enduring peace likely, said the report released Thursday.

Drawing on lessons from the war, which will go into its 19th year on October 7, SIGAR called on Washington to immediately start planning for risks and challenges associated with eventual reintegration as soon as possible, the report said.

Afghan officials and some militants have warned in recent weeks that a peace deal could push Taliban hardliners to join other small, but ruthless extremist groups, either to continue anti-government attacks or as a safe haven after retribution for their insurgent activities. "Some unknown number" will remain a threat after a deal is reached, the Pentagon has also said.

The report was the first comprehensive government study of all post-2001 reintegration programs in Afghanistan.

The United States has spent roughly \$65 billion on such programs during the 18-year war, targeting both the Taliban and pro-government militias, the report said.

"None of these reintegration programs succeeded in enabling any significant number of ex-combatants to socially and economically rejoin civil society," SIGAR said.

New efforts are also likely to fail unless the Taliban first reaches a peace settlement with the Afghan government, it said.

"Without a peace agreement in place, any proactive effort to reintegrate Taliban fighters may backfire, since the Taliban leadership still view reintegration as surrender," SIGAR said.

After nearly a year of discussions, the U.S. and the Taliban were said to have reached an agreement in principle earlier this month that was expected to outline a gradual withdrawal of roughly 20,000 foreign troops from Afghanistan, of which about 14,000 are American. It was also expected to pave the way for talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government, which has been excluded from the process so far.

But just days after it was announced that a deal had been reached, President Donald Trump abruptly called off negotiations, citing a suicide car bombing in Kabul that killed an American soldier.

Trump later said talks with the insurgents were "dead," though officials from both sides have hinted they could resume at a later date.

The absence of a comprehensive political settlement or peace agreement was the "key factor" in the failure of previous programs that sought to reintegrate the Taliban, SIGAR found. Other important factors were insecurity, a weak economy and limited government capacity to implement programs.

"Many factors that contributed to the failure of previous reintegration programs persist to this day, creating an environment that is not conducive to a renewed reintegration effort while the insurgent activity is ongoing," SIGAR said.

Regardless of the status of the peace negotiations, not having a plan for the eventual reintegration of Taliban fighters into Afghan society could pose a risk to the U.S.'s development efforts in Afghanistan, SIGAR warned.

U.S.-funded development programs in the country should "take into account the circumstances and needs of former combatants and their families," and Washington should lend its support to a transitional justice process, led by the Afghans, "which will be critical to underpin successful long-term reintegration," the report said.

SIGAR also recommended that the U.S. finally designate an office to handle reintegration matters. Even after nearly two decades of war, "the U.S. government has no lead agency or office for issues concerning the reintegration of ex-combatants," the report said. "In Afghanistan, this has contributed to a lack of clarity about reintegration goals and their relation to reconciliation."

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AHMAD WALI SARHAD/AP

Damaged ambulances are seen at the site of a suicide attack in Zabul, Afghanistan, on Thursday. A powerful early morning suicide truck bomb devastated a hospital in southern Afghanistan on Thursday.

## Carnage: Hospital, mosque damaged in attack that Taliban say targeted intel office

FROM FRONT PAGE

to hospitals in nearby Kandahar.

Zabul province Governor Rahmatullah Yarmal said the death toll was 20 with many of the 97 injured in critical condition. There were contradictory figures of the dead and wounded in the early hours immediately after the 6 a.m. suicide truck bombing.

Morning prayers had just finished when worshippers were stunned by the ear-splitting blast that destroyed parts of a mosque adjacent to the hospital and the hospital building, said Mahboob Hakim, a resident of Qalat.

Windows in his home more than a mile away were shattered by the blast, he said.

A Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahed, said in a tweet the target was a nearby intelligence office, which he claimed was destroyed and "tens of intelligence operatives killed/wounded."

Provincial council chief Atta Jan Hagbayan said the wall of the National Security Department building was damaged. He couldn't say whether any personnel were among the casualties.

Gov. Yarmal said many of the dead and wounded were women and children. On Twitter, an Afghan National Security Forces personnel posted a picture of a 6-month-old child saying they were searching through the rubble for the parents and sought the public's help.

President Ashraf Ghani's spokesman, Sediq Sediqi, condemned the attack in Zabul, tweeting that the Taliban "continue to target civilians while their leaders travel to Iran and Russia," a reference to the Taliban negotiators recent forays seeking support abroad.

The violence has further rattled the country as it prepares for national elections later this month.

Meanwhile, former Afghan President Hamid Karzai made an appeal to the Taliban to end their attacks and to negotiate with Afghans, saying that the country can construct its own peace deal without the U.S. and ask for American troops to leave.

## US draws fire after drone strike kills, wounds dozens

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN  
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S. military was under fire Thursday from Afghan officials who said an American drone strike in Nangarhar province had killed at least 30 people and wounded more than 40 others.

"This is the cruelest act — how could you not see that they were all poor laborers?" said Mumtaz Arifzai, a member of the local council in Khogyani district, where the strike occurred.

"These attacks cause a lot of distrust. If they continue, people will surely start supporting the Taliban."

However, The Washington Post reported that Nangarhar Gov. Shahmashood Miakhel later disputed the reports of civilian casualties. He said all those killed were militants.

The U.S. military confirmed it conducted a precision airstrike targeting Islamic State fighters in the area. A spokesman said claims of civilian casualties were being investigated.

"We are fighting in a complex environment against those who intentionally kill and hide behind civilians,"

U.S. Forces-Afghanistan spokesman Col. Sonny Leggett said. "We are aware of allegations of the death of non-combatants and are working with local officials to determine the facts."

The victims of the strike were farm laborers sleeping in tents, said Arifzai. Provincial council member Ajmal Omar confirmed that more than 30 laborers had been killed in the strike.

The provincial governor's office said 16 people were killed and eight others wounded in what it said was a planned U.S. drone strike that happened at 1 a.m. Thursday.

If investigations confirm that civilians were killed in the operation, it would add to a growing number of non-combatant fatalities blamed on U.S. forces in recent months.

American airstrikes in Afghanistan were at their highest level of the year in August, even as the U.S. held peace talks with the Taliban, a report released last week showed.

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ANDREA VILLARI/Stars and Stripes

## MIDEAST

# Attack on oil exposes Saudi defense gaps

By ROBERT BURNS  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Saudi Arabia spent billions to protect a kingdom built on oil but could not stop the suspected Iranian drone and missile attack, exposing gaps that even America's most advanced weaponry failed to fill.

In addition to deciding whether that firepower should be turned on Iran in retaliation, the Saudis and their American allies must now figure out how to prevent a repeat of last weekend's attack — or worse, such as an assault on the Saudis' export facilities in the Persian Gulf or any of the desalination plants that supply drinking water.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was asked Wednesday on his way to Saudi Arabia how it was possible that the kingdom could have dropped its guard, failing to stop any of the low-flying cruise missiles or armed drones that struck the Abqaiq oil processing center — the largest of its kind in the world — and the Khurais oil field.

Even the best air defenses sometimes fail, he replied.

"We want to make sure that infrastructure and resources are put in place such that attacks like this would be less successful than this one appears to have been."

Easier said than done.

"This is an attack of a scale we've just not seen before," Pompeo said. He called the strike "an act of war" but not say what military response might follow.

President Donald Trump, in California on a political fundraising trip, said, "We know very much what happened." But he, too, was noncommittal on whether he would order U.S. military retaliation.

Saudi Arabia has multiple batteries of advanced U.S. Patriot air defense missiles, which are meant to shoot down hostile aircraft or shorter-range ballistic missiles. Patriots provide "point defense" — not protection of wide swaths of territory — and it's unclear whether any were positioned close to the oil sites.

The U.S. provides intelligence and surveillance support to the Saudi military, but that, too, has its limitations.

"We've done whatever they could and the entire Middle East at all times," said Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.



AMR NABIL/AP



U.S. GOVERNMENT, DIGITAL GLOBE/AP

**Above:** Remains of what was described as a misfired Iranian cruise missile used in an attack that targeted Saudi Arabia's oil industry and a drone used in an attack in May on Afif, in the Najd region, foreground, are displayed during a press conference in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Wednesday. **Left:** Damage to the infrastructure at Saudi Aramco's Khurais oil field in Buqayq, Saudi Arabia, is seen Sunday.

The U.S. military this summer returned American forces to Saudi Arabia, at Prince Sultan air base south of Riyadh, after an absence of more than a decade. Those forces include a Patriot missile battery. Prince Sultan became a hub of American air power in the Middle East in the 1990s but was abandoned by Washington after Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein was toppled in 2003.

The Saudis clearly were not prepared

for this assault, which was unusual in its execution and unprecedented in its targeting. They have largely focused their air defenses on threats from the south, in the direction of Houthi rebels who frequently launch shorter-range missile and drone attacks on Saudi territory. Saudi officials said Wednesday the low-flying cruise missiles and armed drones struck from the north, suggesting they came from Iran.

The strike interrupted the equivalent

of about 5% of the world's daily oil supply. Saudi Arabia's energy minister said Tuesday that more than half of the country's daily crude oil production that was knocked out by the attack had been recovered and production capacity at the targeted plants would be fully restored by the end of the month.

Seth Jones, a counterterrorism expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said "almost no state" could have fully thwarted such an unconventional attack. Saudi Arabia, given the scope of its oil infrastructure, is especially at risk to Iran's multi-dimensional threat.

"The vulnerability of Saudi Arabia's ... critical infrastructure is probably impossible to entirely defend," Jones said, though the Saudis are "fairly well prepared" to defend against conventional threats such as warplanes.

Though the Saudis' energy minister talked of a rapid bounce-back, the attack seemed to herald a new era of energy vulnerability.

"Never in the history of global energy markets has a malevolent act targeted at energy infrastructure been felt globally," Pierre Noel, an analyst with the International Institute for Strategic Studies, wrote on Tuesday.

He called it the "archetypal event that oil security specialists talk about all the time but never happens."

Iran denies it was to blame. But its alleged fingerprints on the destruction in the desert point to a trend toward a shadowy form of warfare that can sneak past traditional defenses.

Anthony Cordesman, a Middle East expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, wrote this week that the use of cruise missiles and armed drones

— whether by Iran or its Houthi proxies in the desert — reflects a move toward unconventional military capabilities, including cyberattack, that defies traditional thinking about defense and security.

"Analysts have been warning about these shifts in the nature of war for years, but the recent strikes on Saudi Arabia have made it clear that they are now at least a limited reality," Cordesman wrote.

Saudi officials on Wednesday said the attack was "unquestionably sponsored by Iran," naming but not directly accusing its Gulf rival of launching the assault.

## Iran: UAE joins US-led coalition to protect waterways across Middle East

### FROM FRONT PAGE

Asked by CNN what would be the consequence of a U.S. or Saudi strike, Zarif said: "All-out war."

It would cause "a lot of casualties," he said.

"I am making a very serious statement that we don't want to engage in a military confrontation," Zarif said. "But we won't blink to defend our territory."

He added that any sanctions placed by the U.S. on Iran after pulling out of the nuclear deal would need to be lifted before any negotiations could be considered.

"They've done whatever they could and they haven't been able to bring us to our knees," Zarif said.

Pompeo, who had just arrived to the United Arab Emirates, did not immediately respond. He met earlier in the day with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Jiddah about the attack on a chemical oil processing facility and oil field, which cut the kingdom's oil production in half. Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels

have claimed the attack, but the U.S. alleges Iran carried out the assault.

"The U.S. stands with #SaudiArabia and supports its right to defend itself," Pompeo tweeted. "The Iranian regime's threatening behavior will not be tolerated."

Pompeo did not elaborate. Trump has been noncommittal on whether he would order U.S. military retaliation. He said separately Wednesday that he is moving to increase financial sanctions on Tehran over the attack, without elaborating. Iran already is subject to a crushing American sanctions program targeting its crucial oil industry.

Pompeo met Abu Dhabi's powerful crown prince, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The UAE is a close ally of Saudi Arabia and joined the kingdom in its war with the Houthi rebels in Yemen. The 4-year-old war has killed tens of thousands of people and destroyed much of the country, with millions more driven from their homes and thrown into near starvation.

The UAE said Thursday it had joined

a U.S.-led coalition to protect waterways across the Middle East after the attack in Saudi Arabia.

The state-run WAM news agency quoted Salem al-Zaabi of the Emirati Foreign Ministry as saying the UAE joined the coalition to "ensure global energy security and the continued flow of energy supplies to the global economy."

Saudi Arabia joined the coalition on Wednesday. Australia, Bahrain and the United Kingdom also are taking part.

Pompeo tweeted his appreciation for the UAE and Saudi Arabia joining the coalition. "Recent events underscore the importance of protecting global commerce and freedom of navigation," he wrote.

The U.S. formed the coalition after attacks on oil tankers that Washington blamed on Tehran, as well as Iran's seizure of tankers in the region. Iran denies being behind the tanker explosions, although the attacks came after Tehran threatened to stop oil exports from the Persian Gulf.

Iraq said it would not join the coalition.

The government in Baghdad, which is allied with both Iran and the U.S., has tried to keep a neutral stance amid the tensions.

At a news conference Wednesday, the Saudis displayed broken and burned drones and pieces of a cruise missile that military spokesman Col. Turki Al-Malki identified as Iranian weapons collected after the attack. He also played surveillance video that he said showed a drone coming in from the north. Yemen is to the south of Saudi Arabia.

Eighteen missiles and seven cruise missiles were launched in the assault, Al-Malki said, with three missiles failing to hit their targets. He said the cruise missiles had a range of 435 miles, meaning they could not have been fired from inside Yemen. That opinion was shared by weapons experts who spoke to The Associated Press.

"This is the kind of weapon the Iranian regime and the Iranian IRGC are using against the civilian object and facilities infrastructure," Al-Malki said, referring to Iran's Revolutionary Guard.

## NATION

# Intel watchdog mum on substance of report

By MARY CLARE LALONICK  
AND LISA MASCARONE  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government's intelligence watchdog declined on Thursday to discuss the substance of a whistleblower complaint that reportedly concerned President Donald Trump making an unspecified promise to a foreign leader. Trump rejected the report as fake news and "presidential harassment."

The inspector general's testimony at a closed-door meeting of the House intelligence committee was described by two people with knowledge of the proceeding. They were not authorized to discuss the meeting by name and were granted anonymity.

The Washington Post reported

the complaint involves an intelligence official's allegation that Trump made the promise to an unidentified foreign leader in a telephone call. The Post cited two anonymous former U.S. officials.

The Associated Press has not confirmed the report.

"Another Fake News story out there — It never ends!" Trump tweeted. "Virtually anytime I speak on the phone to a foreign leader, I understand that there may be many people listening from various U.S. agencies, not to mention those from the other country itself. No problem!"

He asked: "Is anybody dumb enough to believe that I would say something inappropriate with a foreign leader while on such a potentially 'heavily populated' call."

Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., said inspector general Michael Atkinson determined the whistleblower complaint was "credible and urgent" and should be "transmitted to Congress."

Atkinson testified behind closed doors at the Capitol, but it appeared he did not disclose details to lawmakers. Instead, the appearance mainly involved a discussion of the process for whistleblower complaints, the sources said.

Schiff told reporters he cannot confirm a press report that said a whistleblower's complaint concerned a promise Trump made on a phone call to a foreign leader. He also said the acting director of national intelligence is withholding the complaint from Congress

in an unprecedented departure from the law.

"There is an effort to prevent this information from getting to Congress," Schiff said.

He said he believes the whistleblower's complaint "likely involves the president or people around him."

Joseph Maguire, acting director of national intelligence, has refused to discuss details.

Schiff subpoenaed Maguire, saying he was withholding a whistleblower complaint from Congress and questioning whether he had been directed to do so by the White House or the attorney general. Maguire is expected to testify publicly about the whistleblower complaint on Sept. 26.

Both Atkinson and Maguire are to appear next week before the

Senate intelligence committee, according to Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia, the ranking Democrat on the panel.

Rep. Jim Himes, D-Conn., said Thursday on MSNBC that the acting director "broke the law when he decided to basically intercept the inspector general's report to Congress."

That's "never been done before in the history of inspector general reports to the Congress," Himes said. "And the American people should be worried about that."

In a letter Tuesday, the general counsel for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Jason Klitnick, wrote that the agency is protecting the whistleblower and argued the allegation does not meet the definition of "urgent concern."

## Calif. fights to preserve its emission standards

By ADAM BEAM  
AND MICHAEL BIESECKER  
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — In eliminating California's authority to set its own emission standards for cars and trucks, the Trump administration would take away leverage the state needs to convince the world's largest automakers to make more environmentally-friendly vehicles.

But one California lawmaker is already working on a way to preserve at least some of the state's environmental muscle: rebates for electric cars.

California residents who buy or lease a zero-emission vehicle can get up to \$7,000 from the state. A bill by Democratic Assemblyman Phil Ting would mean people could only get that money if they buy a car from a company that has agreed to follow California's emission standards.

The proposal comes as the Trump administration on Wednesday announced it was revoking California's authority to set its own auto emission standards — authority it has had for decades under a waiver from the federal Clean Air Act.

California has 35 million registered vehicles, giving it organized influence with the auto industry. That heft was on display in July, when Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom announced four automakers — Ford, BMW, Honda and Volkswagen — agreed to follow California's standards, bypassing the Trump administration, which had been working on new rules.

California officials have been negotiating with other automakers to follow suit, but those talks stalled Wednesday when Trump announced, via Twitter, that he



RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

**Assemblyman Phil Ting has a bill that would only allow people to get rebates for electric cars from manufacturers who have agreed to the state's emission standards.**

was revoking California's authority to set its own emission standards.

But Ting's proposal, first reported by CalMatters, shows California has other ways it could entice automakers to follow its environmental lead. David Vogel, a professor emeritus of business ethics at the Haas School of Business of the University of California-Berkeley, noted California could accomplish its goals through various tax changes, which the federal government could not stop.

"Even if the Trump administration would win on this, California could use taxes to accomplish much of the same goals," Vogel said. "The federal government would have less of an ability to challenge because states can pretty much tax who they want."

The California Legislature adjourned for the year last week. But before they left, they amended Assembly Bill 40 to include the new language so they could debate it when they return to work in January.

State officials could use the tactic to aid negotiations with Toyota and General Motors, two manufacturers that make electric cars but have so far not agreed to California's emission standards. It's unclear how effective the law would be as California's Clean

Vehicle Rebate Program has a waiting list.

Asked about the proposal on Wednesday, California Gov. Gavin Newsom said he would make an announcement by Friday, but he did not elaborate.

In a tweet, Trump said his action to revoke California's authority to set its own emission standards would result in less expensive, safer cars. He also predicted Americans would purchase more new cars, which would result in cleaner air as older models are taken off the roads.

"Many more cars will be produced under the new and uniform standard, meaning significantly more JOBS, JOBS, JOBS! Automakers should seize this opportunity because without this alternative to California, you will be out of business," Trump tweeted.

U.S. automakers contend that without year-over-year increases in fuel efficiency that align with global market realities their vehicles could be less competitive, potentially resulting in job losses. However, most of the industry favors increases in standards that are less than the Obama-era requirements, saying their consumers are gravitating to SUVs and trucks rather than buying more efficient cars.

## Pelosi unveils ambitious plan to lower drug prices

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Putting her stamp on the health care issue that worries consumers the most, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Thursday unveiled an ambitious plan to lower drug prices for seniors on Medicare and younger people with private insurance.

Pelosi, D-Calif., would empower Medicare to negotiate prices for the 250 costliest drugs, including insulin. Pharmaceutical companies that refuse to negotiate could face steep penalties. Additionally, drugmakers that hike prices beyond inflation would have to pay rebates to Medicare.

The plan would limit copays for seniors covered by Medicare's "Part D" prescription drug program to \$2,000. And Medicare-negotiated prices would be available to other buyers, such as employer health plans.

The plan is Pelosi's marker in what's shaping up as a high-stakes negotiation to determine if a drug pricing compromise can pass Congress this year or if Democrats and Republicans will take their differences into the 2020 elections.

The sweeping legislation leans left politically and appears to be tailor-made for Pelosi's Democratic majority in the House. But in a signal that Pelosi wants a deal, it also incorporates ideas from the Trump administration and from Republican and Democratic senators.

The solid majority of Americans, regardless of partisan affiliation, says lowering prescription drug costs should be a top priority for Congress this year. Overall, 70 percent deemed that a top priority in a poll earlier this month from the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation.

President Donald Trump appears eager to sign prescription drug legislation and lower costs,



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

**Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., arrives for a closed-door meeting with the House Democratic Caucus, on Wednesday in Washington.**

but most Republicans oppose the Medicare negotiations that are the centerpiece of Pelosi's plan. The 2003 law that created Medicare's prescription drug benefit barred the program from negotiating prices, a restriction Democrats have long opposed.

As a candidate, Trump backed Medicare negotiations. But after Trump was elected president, he seemed to revert to the traditional Republican position that price negotiations are best left to private players like insurance companies.

With tens of billions of dollars in profits at stake, drugmakers are determined to block any major changes to payment policies. But the industry's powerful lobbying group, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, has been taking fire from all sides, from liberal Democrats to pro-business Republicans. Trump once accused drug companies of "getting away with murder."



## NATION

# Suspected airline saboteur linked to ISIS, officials say

By CURT ANDERSON  
Associated Press

MIAMI — A mechanic accused of sabotaging an American Airlines jetliner had expressed a desire for Allah to hurt non-Muslims, stored violent Islamic State videos on his cellphone and has a brother in Iraq possibly involved with the extremist group, according to new evidence unveiled at his bail hearing Wednesday.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Chris McAliley cited those revelations from prosecutors in ordering pretrial detention for Abdul-Majeed Marouf Ahmed Alani at the hearing in Miami federal court. Alani is accused of disabling a critical navigation component on the Boeing 737, which had 150 passengers and crew aboard.

Other evidence revealed Wednesday including that Alani, 60, recently sent a \$700 wire transfer to someone in Iraq — where he has extended family — and that he traveled to Iraq in March but did not disclose that to authorities after his arrest.

Prosecutors also presented evidence that Alani has a brother in Iraq who may be involved with the Islamic State extremist group as well as statements Alani made about wishing Allah would use “divine powers” to harm non-Muslims. Alani had videos on his cellphone depicting Islamic State mass murders he shared with others, according to prosecutors.

“You may be very sympathetic to terrorists,” Judge McAliley told Alani at the hearing. “That’s very disconcerting.”

Alani is a naturalized U.S. citizen from Iraq who has worked as an airline mechanic for 30 years,

**‘You may be very sympathetic to terrorists. That’s very disconcerting.’**

Chris McAliley  
U.S. magistrate judge

with no prior criminal record. He’s not charged with a terror-related crime, but Assistant U.S. Attorney Maria Medetis said the potential links to the Islamic State give rise to the possibility that his actions had a darker purpose beyond what he insisted was a labor issue.

Alani told agents after his arrest earlier this month that, “Out of my evil side, I wanted to do something,” Medetis said, adding that the statement was recorded by the FBI.

Alani is charged with sabotaging the airliner at Miami International Airport in July because, he told authorities, ongoing labor negotiations were jeopardizing his chances at earning overtime. The aircraft did not take off and no one was injured. And Alani did work overtime to help fix the plane.

He faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted of the charge of “willfully damaging, destroying or disabling” an aircraft used in commercial aviation, or trying to do so.

The sabotage involved gluing a piece of Styrofoam inside the nose of the aircraft that effectively disabled a component pilots depend on to gauge such things as airspeed, the pitch of the plane,

and so forth. Authorities say the problem was detected just before takeoff when an error message appeared on a screen in the cockpit and the jet returned to a gate. It had been bound for Nassau, Bahamas.

Airport surveillance video showed Alani working on the aircraft’s nose compartment for seven minutes, even though there was no repair issue with the plane. He was later identified by co-workers from that video.

Alani attorney Christian Dunham, a federal public defender, said as an experienced mechanic Alani knew the sabotage would keep the aircraft from flying and, even if it did take off, there are redundancies built in that would have kept it safe.

“We don’t think they are going to be able to prove he intentionally put people in danger,” Dunham said. “The plane would have been fine to fly.”

Dunham asked for Alani’s release on \$200,000 bail, secured by family members as well as former co-workers at American Airlines in Miami. Alani has been fired from his job at the airline, and the Federal Aviation Administration recently revoked his certificate as an aircraft mechanic, Dunham said.

But McAliley said she could not grant Alani release on bail because of his ability to travel abroad frequently and because he might still pose a danger to the community.

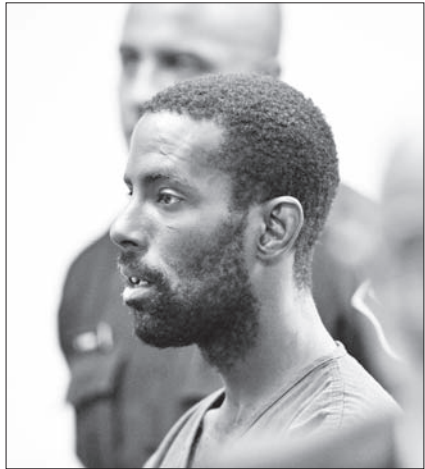
“What you did with this aircraft was highly reckless and unconscionable,” the judge said. “Certainly there was a risk of a catastrophic disaster. I think it is likely you will be convicted.”

as his desire to join fighters in Syria, Sullivan wrote in the affidavit. He also tried to minimize his support of “radical Islamic ideology,” the affidavit states.

“Qashou stated he believed ISIS is fighting a humanitarian war that will benefit all Muslims in the Middle East,” it states.

The aim of one interview was to “establish a baseline of Qashou’s beliefs to determine which Islamic groups he was willing to join if he traveled to Syria and to determine what he is willing to do as a supporter for ISIS if his travels were successful,” according to the affidavit.

He ended one of the interviews by saying he felt “it was his duty as a Muslim to inform the interviewing agents that he thinks the Boston Marathon bomber, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, is innocent and the FBI should reopen the case to examine all the evidence.”



TODD MCINTYRE, DETROIT NEWS/AP

**Deangelo Martin has been charged in the deaths of four women and is accused of stowing their bodies in vacant houses in Detroit.**

## Man labeled ‘serial killer,’ charged in 4 slayings in Detroit

By COREY WILLIAMS  
Associated Press

DETROIT — A prosecutor announced murder charges Wednesday against a 34-year-old man in the slayings of four women in Detroit whose deaths authorities have characterized as the work of a serial killer.

Deangelo Martin is charged with four counts of first-degree murder and four counts of felony murder in the killings of the women whose bodies were found in abandoned houses in the city as far back as February 2018, Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said at a news conference.

Martin was arraigned Wednesday afternoon. A probable cause conference was scheduled for Oct. 2 and a preliminary examination on Oct. 9.

Martin, who was arrested in June, was already charged in the stabbing and sexual assault of a 26-year-old woman in May and the kidnapping and assault of a 51-year-old woman in June.

Police Chief James Craig has said he sees similarities between three of the slayings and the assaults of at least two other women who survived attacks.

“I think it’s pretty clear that we believe he is a serial killer,” Worthy said.

She named the victims as Annetta Nelson, 57, whose body was found Feb. 26, 2018; Nancy Harrison, 52, who was discovered March 19, 2019; Trevesene Ellis, 55, who was found March 24; and Tamara Jones, 55, who was found June 5.

All the victims were found face down with a used condom beside them, she said. A coroner determined that Nelson and Harrison died of blunt force trauma but the cause of death for the other two couldn’t be determined because their bodies were too badly decomposed, Worthy said.

Police are investigating two additional possible homicide cases that might also be connected, she said.

Police have said they believe all the women were sex workers.

“Predators ... look for people who are seemingly vulnerable, left out and left behind,” Worthy said. “People that they think will not fight back, people that they think nobody cares about, people that they think won’t be missed. But they’re wrong.”

She continued: “We worked tirelessly to make sure that we can bring them some modicum of justice, of respect and of dignity, no matter what they were engaged in before, during, after they were reported missing.”

Martin was initially arrested in June in the rape and attempted murder of a woman who was able to escape the attack. At that point, police had already uncovered three homicide victims, and teams of police officers and other city workers were searching hundreds of vacant buildings for more bodies.

“This is the kind of case that creates so much fear in our community,” Craig said during the news conference. “We’re very diligent, relentless in how we approach these matters.”

## Ala. man arrested in terrorism probe

By JEFF MARTIN  
Associated Press

ATLANTA — An Alabama man has been apprehended as part of a yearlong terrorism probe in which the FBI says he told agents he would execute a U.S. soldier if ordered to do so by the Islamic State group.

FBI agents took Nayef Qashou into custody Monday. He’s charged with lying to the FBI and destroying records.

In a newly unsealed affidavit, the FBI says Qashou arrived in the U.S. through Atlanta’s airport in 2015, planning to study nursing at an Opelika, Ala., community college. The FBI interviewed him more than a dozen times over the next four years.

He used encrypted phone apps to communicate with suspected terrorists who told him he should carry out an attack in the United States, the FBI said. “Qashou would not tell inter-

viewers exactly how he responded to the suggestion to conduct a U.S. attack,” FBI Special Agent Scott Sullivan wrote in the sworn affidavit. “He stated he essentially responded by saying the only way he could justify an attack is for it to be against U.S. Armed Forces personnel on U.S. soil.”

The nature of the encrypted communication was to discuss attacks against U.S. forces, among other things, the affidavit states. FBI agents searched his home in Auburn, telling a judge they were looking for computer equipment and computer storage devices.

Qashou also told FBI agents he does not believe in violence, but would help ISIS and would “drive fuel trucks, feed troops, and use a gun to defend against U.S.-led attacks against ISIS,” the affidavit states.

Qashou consented to numerous interviews at the FBI’s Auburn field office, where he voluntarily shared some information — such

## NATION

# Rescues underway as storm drenches Texas

By JUAN A. LOZANO  
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Rain from Tropical Depression Imelda deluged parts of Texas and Louisiana on Thursday, prompting hundreds of water rescues, a hospital evacuation and road closures in areas east of Houston that were hit hard by Hurricane Harvey two years ago.

Forecasters warned that Imelda could bring up to 35 inches of rain this week in some areas of Texas through Friday. The storm system also brought the risk of severe weather and prompted tornado warnings Thursday morning in the areas hit hardest by the flooding.

In Winnie, a town of about 3,200 people 60 miles east of Houston, a hospital was evacuated and water was inundating several homes and businesses. The Chambers County Sheriff's Office said Winnie is "being devastated by rising water" and water rescues are ongoing.

The worst of the flooding is east of Houston, and some local officials said the rainfall Thursday is causing flooding worse than what happened during Hurricane Harvey.

In Beaumont, a city of just under 120,000 people that's located about 30 miles from the Gulf of Mexico, authorities said all service roads are impassable and two local hospitals are inaccessible, the Beaumont Enterprise reported.

The Beaumont Police Department said on Twitter that 911 has received requests for more than 250 high water rescues and 270 evacuations.

"It's bad. Homes that did not flood in Harvey are flooding now," Jefferson County Judge Jeff Branick said. During Harvey, Beaumont's only pump station was swamped by floodwaters, leaving residents without water service for more than a week.

The National Weather Service issued a flash flood emergency for several counties, saying "life-threatening amounts of rainfall" have fallen and more is expected in the area Thursday. Imelda's center was about 110 miles north of Houston early Thursday and was moving north-northwest at



JENNIFER REYNOLDS, THE GALVESTON COUNTY (TEXAS) DAILY NEWS/AP

**Terry Spencer carries his daughter Trinity through high water from Tropical Depression Imelda in Galveston, Texas, on Wednesday.**

5 mph, according to the National Hurricane Center.

Heavy rainfall occurred Wednesday in many areas and spawned several weak tornadoes in the Baytown area, about 25 miles east of Houston, damaging trees, barns and sheds and causing minor damage to some homes and vehicles.

Coastal counties, including Brazoria, Matagorda and Galveston, were hit hard by rainfall through Wednesday. Sargent, a town of about 2,700 residents in Matagorda County, had received nearly 20 inches of rain since Tuesday.

Karen Romero, 57, who lives with her husband in Sargent, said Wednesday this was the most rain she has had in her neighborhood in her nine years living there.

"The rain (Tuesday) night was just massive sheets of rain and lightning storms," said Romero.

She said her home, located along a creek, was not in danger of flooding as it sits on stilts, like many others nearby.

In the Houston area, the rainfall flooded some roadways Wednesday, stranding drivers, and caused several creeks and bayous to rise to high levels.

The National Hurricane Center said Imelda weakened to a tropical depression after making landfall Tuesday near Freeport, Texas, with maximum sustained winds of 40 mph.

The weather service said Imelda is the first named storm to impact the Houston area since Hurricane Harvey dumped nearly 50 inches of rain on parts of the flood-prone city in August 2017, flooding more than 150,000 homes in the Houston area and causing an estimated \$125 billion in damage in Texas.



MARK MULLIGAN, HOUSTON CHRONICLE/AP

**High water is seen in Sargent, Texas, on Wednesday. According to Matagorda County Constable Bill Orton, Sargent received 22 inches of rain since Imelda started impacting the area on Tuesday.**

## Mexican megachurch leader back in court in child rape case

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Prosecutors planned to detail Thursday accusations of child rape and human trafficking against the leader of Mexican megachurch La Luz del Mundo.

Nelson Joaquín Garcia, who is considered the church's apostle, and two co-defendants were arrested in June on suspicion of sexually abusing three girls and a woman in Los Angeles County. All three have pleaded not guilty in Los Angeles Superior Court, and a fourth defendant remains at large.

Garcia is being held without bail after a historically high \$50 million bail was

set earlier in the case. His attorneys have raised concerns about potential evidence manipulation, as well as a theory of conspiracy, saying that a complaining witness has tried to frame their client.

The victims were allegedly told they would be going against God if they didn't acquiesce to Garcia and his sexual demands. Garcia heads up the international evangelical megachurch, which boasts 5 million followers — dozens of whom have attended his court proceedings.

Prosecutors have sought to keep Garcia behind bars as he awaits trial, saying he poses a threat to "hundreds of girls" if he gets released. Prosecutors have also said

they were concerned Garcia's followers could raise money for his bail, even when it was \$50 million.

While the attorney general's office said there could be additional victims and charges, only three counts of child pornography have been added since Garcia's arrest.

In June, Judge Teresa Sullivan said prosecutors must offer more evidence of the allegations. It was unclear if Sullivan was to oversee Thursday's hearing, in which the judge was to decide if there is enough evidence to go to trial.

Investigators said in July they were still going through thousands of photos and vid-

eos. They said some they had already reviewed allegedly contained sexual images of persons believed to be minors, as well as sexual assaults in video footage.

The attorney general's office declined to provide additional information Wednesday ahead of the hearing.

Allen Sawyer, one of Garcia's lawyers, says prosecutors have not disclosed their discovery. They have promised to turn over evidence, he said, "and it hasn't materialized."

He said that failure could lead to a judge setting bail for his client.

Sawyer said his independent investigation has taken him to Mexico.

## NATION

# Old weapons site becomes home to wildlife

By DAN ELLIOTT  
Associated Press

DENVER — From a tiny Pacific island to a leafy Indiana forest, a handful of sites where the United States manufactured and tested some of the most lethal weapons known to humankind are now peaceful havens for wildlife.

An astonishing array of animals and habitats flourished on six obsolete weapons complexes — mostly for nuclear or chemical arms — because the sites banned the public and other intrusions for decades.

The government converted them into refuges under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service management, and they now protect black bears and black-footed ferrets, coral reefs and brushy steppes, rare birds and imperiled salmon.

But the cost of the conversions is staggering, and some critics say the sites have not been scrubbed well enough of pollutants to make them safe for humans.

The military, the U.S. Department of Energy and private companies have spent more than \$57 billion to clean up the six heavily polluted sites, according to figures gathered by The Associated Press from military and civil agencies.

And the biggest bills have yet to be paid. The Energy Department estimates it will cost between \$323 billion and \$677 billion more to finish the costliest cleanup, at the Hanford Site in Washington state where the government produced plutonium for bombs and missiles.

## Contamination left behind

Despite the complicated and expensive cleanups, significant contamination has been left behind, some experts say. This legacy, they say, requires restrictions on where visitors can go and obligates the government to monitor the sites for perhaps centuries.

"They would be worse if they were surrounded by a fence and left off-limits for decades and decades," said David Havlick, a professor at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs who studies military-to-wildlife conversions. "That said, it would be better if they were cleaned up more thoroughly."

Researchers have not examined the health risks to wildlife at the cleaned-up refuges as extensively as the potential danger to humans, but few problems have been reported.

At least 30 of the 560-plus refuges managed by the wildlife service have come since history with the military or weapons production, the AP found. Most handled conventional weapons, not nuclear or chemical.

Many of the conversions came after the first and second world wars.

When the Cold War ended in the 1980s, more surplus military lands were earmarked for refuges. Some were among the most dangerously polluted sites in the nation but held swaths of hard-to-find habitat.

## Reborn as idyllic prairie

Most skeptics agree the refuges are worthwhile but warn that the natural beauty might obscure the environmental damage wreaked nearby.

"The military closed the sites to keep people safe from the dangerous work that went on there, not to save the environment, said Havlick of the University of Colorado.

"It's not because the Department of Defense has some ecological ethic," said Havlick, author of a book about conversions, "But away from Militarization, Conservation, and Ecological Restoration."



PHOTOS BY ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

A sign designates a boundary of the Hanford Reach National Monument as the world's first large scale nuclear reactor, the B Reactor, is seen beyond where it sits unused, on Aug. 14, on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation along the Columbia River near Richland, Wash.



A roadside sign on the Hanford Reach National Monument gives information about the Hanford Nuclear Reservation near Richland, Wash., on Aug. 14.

Converting a heavily polluted weapons complex into a wildlife refuge is cheaper than making it safe for homes, schools and businesses, said Adam Rome, who teaches environmental history at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

"In some cases, they could have conceivably made the site into something that was economically valuable," but that would have cost more, Rome said.

Critics say Rocky Mountain Arsenal in Colorado illustrates the shortcomings of a cleanup designed to be good enough for a refuge but not for human habitation.

Roughly 10 miles from downtown Denver, the arsenal was once an environmental nightmare where chemical weapons and commercial pesticides were made. Thousands of ducks died after coming in contact with its wastewater ponds in the 1950s.

After a \$2.1 billion cleanup, the site was reborn as Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, with 24 square miles of idyllic prairie where visitors can take scenic drives or hikes.

But parts of the refuge remain off-limits, including specially designed landfills where the Army disposed of contaminated

soil. Eating fish and game from the refuge is forbidden. Treatment plants remove contaminants from groundwater to keep them out of domestic wells.

"Theoretically, if the Earth still exists in the year 3000, they'll still be monitoring groundwater at the arsenal," said Jeff Edson, a former Colorado state health official who worked on the cleanup.

## Unexploded artillery shells

The Army is still struggling with cleaning up Jefferson Proving Ground in southeastern Indiana, part of which became Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge.

Soldiers test-fired millions of artillery rounds at the proving ground, some made of depleted uranium.

Depleted uranium, a byproduct of nuclear fuel production, is used for armor-piercing shells. Its radiation isn't strong enough to be dangerous outside the body, but its dust is a serious health risk if inhaled or swallowed, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says.

Depleted uranium fragments are scattered on the firing range among 1.5 million rounds of unexploded shells, which makes cleanup dangerous and expensive.

The Army told the Nuclear Regulatory Commission it could cost \$3.2 billion to clean the area for unrestricted use. Its latest plan calls for waiting 20 years in hopes that better, less expensive technology emerges or the unexploded shells degrade to a safe level.

Some parts of the refuge have been deemed safe — but visitors must watch a safety video and sign a waiver promising not to sue if they're injured by an exploding shell.

## A \$7 billion cleanup

Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, a former nuclear weapons plant northwest of Denver, opened to hikers and cyclists last September, but some activists question whether it's safe.

A \$7 billion cleanup concentrated on 2 square miles where workers assembled plutonium triggers for nuclear warheads,

and that area is fenced and closed to the public.

The refuge was created in the buffer zone surrounding the production area. State and federal officials say it's safe, but skeptical activists filed a lawsuit saying the federal government didn't test the refuge carefully enough.

Another group asked the courts to release documents from a 27-year-old criminal investigation into the weapons plant, hoping they will show whether the government tracked down and cleaned up all the contamination.

Both those cases are pending in federal court.

## Saving 'something positive'

Hanford — where the cleanup has already cost at least \$48 billion and hundreds of billions more are projected — may be the most troubled refuge of all.

Parts of a C-shaped buffer zone around the perimeter are open to visitors as Hanford Reach National Monument. But cleanup costs for an area where contaminated waste is stored are soaring, and Department of Energy investigators say the project has been plagued by fraud and mismanagement.

Washington state officials are worried that the Trump administration wants to reclassify millions of gallons of wastewater at Hanford from high-level radioactive to low-level, which could reduce cleanup standards and cut costs.

The Energy Department told the state it has no current plans to change the classification. State officials say they want long-term and legally binding assurances.

Mark Madison, the Fish and Wildlife Service's historian, said the refuges are salvaging something valuable from ecological devastation.

"A lot of the environmental stories are kind of doomy and gloomy, and these are successful ones, something positive," he said.

If agency officials believed the sites were unsafe for the public, he said, they would not work there.



## NATION

# Hoping to be next big thing

## Massive animal sculptures pop up around Illinois city thanks to artist

By PHIL LUCIANO  
(Peoria, Ill.) Journal Star

PEORIA, Ill.

In the art world, Monte de Gallo wants to be the next big thing.

Really big. His massive, metal animal sculptures have been popping up in Peoria. As the mammoth menagerie keeps expanding, curious passersby keep asking the same question: What's going on?

The short answer: It's a simple but successful publicity effort. In three weeks, with an advertising budget of nothing, the huge handworks have prompted 2,000 unique hits to the artist's website, sculpturesbymonte.com. There, you can peruse a wide selection of critters—including Randy the Rowdy Rhino, Ellie the Exotic Elephant and Bill the Bodacious Buffalo—that carry price tags ranging from \$12,250 to \$52,000.

Yet the most intriguing creation might be Monte de Gallo himself. He is actually a walking, talking alias boasting a colorful wardrobe and mysterious accent.

"What you're looking at (is) a person I created," he said with a friendly chuckle. "I'm the perso-

na behind Sculptures by Monte." And the person behind Monte de Gallo is Nic di Caro, 38, who spent his earliest years in Sicily, graduated from Pekin Community High School, then detoured to Africa, where he brainstormed his big beasts.

That journey started in 1974, when his Morton-born mother took a trip to Rome. There, she missed her intended bus and caught the next one, on which she met a Sicilian gent. After years of trading letters across the globe, they wed—and eventually along came son Nic.

An artist of multiple genres—he even designs his own clothes—di Caro found his greatest inspiration while traveling in Africa about seven years ago. In Kenya, he marveled at metal animal sculptures, though they seemed to lack enough sparkle.

"They didn't have the finish or finesse to be spectacular," he said.

So he teamed with Kenya artists and welders to experiment, each time crafting a framework skeleton, creating a skin from small sheets of scrap metal (often discarded steel drums), then spraying for color and durabil-



MATT DAYHOFF, JOURNAL STAR/AP

Artist Monte de Gallo shows off his life-size, 14-foot steel sculpture of a giraffe currently on display at a home just south of Columbia Terrace in Peoria, Ill.

ity. In considering commercial aspects, he realized each work would take 500 hours if done by himself. So he developed a network of collaborators—16 in Kenya, six in America—and started a business: Sculptures by Monte. He has been working out of a warehouse in Pekin, but soon will move to a bigger site in East Peoria.

The artworks are about three-quarter scale. For instance, Giselle the Gentle Giraffe stands 14 feet, a bit less than a giraffe in

nature but impressive nonetheless—especially to the Indiana businessman who just bought it for almost \$40,000.

Di Caro feels the artworks provide a way of observing animals without restraining them in captivity. "These are inanimate objects," he said. "But they capture the life and soul of the animals."

Right now, di Caro's glimmering animals stand at friend's homes. He is considering showing off more of his works in Peoria, then maybe other sites

in central Illinois and beyond. Though the creatures are relatively lightweight, perhaps just a couple of hundred pounds each, they require about six workers to be moved.

"They're bulky," di Caro said.

He'll need plenty of help to transport a half-dozen of his beasts for the Big Picture Street Festival in the Warehouse District Oct. 11 and 12. But he looks forward to displaying a small herd to the public at one site.

"I'm having fun," he said.

## Dozens of food-delivery robots descend on Purdue University

By EMILY DELETTRE

(Lafayette, Ind.) Journal & Courier

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — For the past month, Purdue University students have seen little robots making their way across campus, down sidewalks and across streets. They're white and cooler-sized, with six little wheels and a long pole with an orange flag alerting those around of their presence.

Last Monday, 30 such robots, owned by Starship Technologies, officially began delivering food on Purdue's campus.

Purdue is the largest university campus and the first in the Big Ten Conference to have partnered with Starship to offer the delivery service, which operates through an app called Starship Deliveries. The app is available to download through the App Store and the Google Play Store. The service works in conjunction with student meal plans, costing \$1.99 per delivery.

To the service, users open the app and choose from the listed restaurants their food or drink items of choice. They then drop a pin where they want the delivery to be sent and can watch in real time as the robot picks up the items and makes its way to the pin. Once the robot has arrived, the user will be alerted and can unlock the cooler inside to retrieve the items ordered. Each robot can carry around 20 pounds at a time, allowing it to carry multiple orders at once.



NINOS FRAZIER, (LAFAYETTE, IND.) JOURNAL & COURIER/AP

A student moves to avoid a Starship Technologies robot driving along the sidewalk in West Lafayette, Ind.

The lid is locked throughout the robot's delivery journey, said Chris Neider, senior manager of business development at Starship.

"No one is going to steal one of your fries or take a sip of your drink," Neider said. "It's locked in there."

The robots are equipped with 10 cameras, travel at a maximum speed of 4 miles per hour for safety and have six wheels built to be adaptable for icy and snowy conditions.

Although Starship is based in San Francisco, Purdue's strong engineering program and "innovative style" seemed to be a good match for the robots to start delivering.

Starship's robot deliveries have launched at other campuses around the county, including George Mason University in Virginia and Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. But with 43,000 students, Purdue is Starship's largest campus-based clientele.

"We've discovered that there's a need there," Neider said on launching at other universities. "There's a huge demand for this service. Students want stuff delivered, they want to take the robots back to the home base and recharge them overnight. Fully charged, the robots can operate on electric power all day, from the time deliveries start at 8 a.m. to 2 a.m., when they stop."

Neider said Starship will be hiring students for a "whole host of jobs," including people to take the robots back to the home base and recharge them overnight. Fully charged, the robots can operate on electric power all day, from the time deliveries start at 8 a.m. to 2 a.m., when they stop.

"I definitely think it's the future of delivery," Neider said.

The process for acquiring the robots and negotiating with Starship began over the summer and was a fairly fast process, said Beth McCuskey, Purdue's vice provost for student life. In August, the robots began to drive around, mapping the campus and creating delivery routes.

"[The robots] totally tie to innovation," McCuskey said. "Purdue is known for our innovative thinking and our innovative deployment, plus we have some of the coolest food."

For now, the 30 robots will make deliveries with the six available restaurants, a list that Purdue hopes grows over the next couple of months. Even as the robots were mapping campus, McCuskey said she saw the student reaction as quite positive.

## WORLD

# Israeli leader seeks unity government with rival

By TIA GOLDENBERG

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu invited his political rival Benny Gantz to join a unity government with him and his religious allies on Thursday, an offer that was greeted coolly amid continued deadlock following this week's election.

The deadlock has already raised speculation about the coming months, just two days after an unprecedented repeat vote left the country's two main political parties with no clear path to a coalition government. While weeks of negotiations to form a coalition government lay ahead, conditions set by the parties could hobble

the task within the allotted time, forcing another election.

With nearly all votes counted Thursday, the centrist Blue and White party stood at 33 seats in Israel's 120-seat parliament. Netanyahu's conservative Likud stood at 31 seats. Neither party, however, can muster a majority coalition of 61 seats with their smaller allies.

"Throughout the campaign I called for a right-wing government, but unfortunately the election results show that's not possible," Netanyahu said in a video statement. "Therefore there is no choice but to form a broad unity government."

"We cannot and there is no reason to go to third elections," he added.

Netanyahu repeated the plea

later Thursday at a memorial for late former Israeli President Shimon Peres, where he and Gantz, a former military chief of staff, shook hands in their first public encounter since Tuesday's vote.

Neither party can form a majority government without the support of the election's apparent kingmaker, Avigdor Lieberman of the Yisrael Beiteinu party.

Lieberman refuses to sit with Netanyahu's ultra-Orthodox religious allies and has called for a broad, secular unity government with Likud and Blue and White.

Blue and White also favors a unity deal, but has pledged not to sit in the same government as Netanyahu due to the Israeli leader's legal woes. Netanyahu is expected to be indicted in a slew of corruption scandals in the

coming months. But the fiercely loyal Likud is unlikely to oust Netanyahu.

At a Blue and White meeting, Gantz gave Netanyahu's offer an icy reception, saying he planned to establish a unity government "headed by me." He shrugged off Netanyahu's offer as "spin."

Yair Lapid, a senior Blue and White member, accused Netanyahu of dragging the country to a third election and called for him to step down.

"One person is preventing right now the establishment of a liberal unity government. One person stands between what is good for the country and what's good for that person. And country always comes first," he said.

Both parties were meeting with allies in the vote's aftermath

and the focus will soon shift to President Reuven Rivlin, who will consult with all parties in the coming days and select the candidate who he believes has the best chance of putting together a stable coalition.

The candidate has 42 days to do so and, if he fails, the president can give another candidate 28 days to form a coalition. If that fails, the president could then order new elections, something that has never happened. Speaking at the Peres memorial, Rivlin promised he will do everything in his power to prevent a third election.

The deadlock follows the second Israeli elections this year, which were called because Netanyahu failed to cobble together a coalition following the April vote.

## Germany raises cost of driving to reduce pollution from transport

Bloomberg

Germany is preparing to impose a cap-and-trade system on carbon emissions from the heating and transport sectors, raising the cost of driving.

The program that Chancellor Angela Merkel's coalition is considering would require oil companies to buy allowances costing \$33 to \$55 for each ton of carbon dioxide their fuels emit, according to officials familiar with the discussions. They asked not to be named before the information is public.

It's aimed at bringing a more rapid reduction in greenhouse gases across Germany, which is on track to miss targets it set under the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change. Gasoline and diesel distributors led by BP Plc and Royal Dutch Shell Plc would be required to record the carbon content of their sales and buy allowances. Those costs would trickle down to what consumers pay at the pump.

"It's clear that the price of fuel needs to increase," said Constanze Haug, a senior manager at the Berlin-based research group Adelphi who has advised the environment ministry on climate policy. "If the carbon price corridor isn't smartly designed, it could erode support for climate policy."

The program would add costs above the prevailing price in the European Union Emissions Trading System, which averaged less than 24 euros in the past year. That system applies to power generators and some industrial plants but not heat or transport.

Merkel has no choice but to introduce stricter limits on greenhouse gases coming from transport, which accounts for 20% of the nation's total emissions and has increased every year since

2012. Adding to fuel costs would prod drivers toward buying more efficient vehicles and embracing electric cars, which have been slow to sell so far.

About 480,000 electric and hybrid vehicles are on the road in Germany, well short of the target of 6 million that Merkel has set for 2030.

Germany's effort to expand carbon pricing to sectors not covered by the EU ETS draws on California's experience in reining in tailpipe pollution. Germany, like California, would require fuel distributors to report sales for the purpose of monitoring pollution.

The floor price in Germany would be set at roughly double what California charges. Another difference is the most-populous U.S. state uses low-carbon fuel standards and measurements of the carbon-intensity of oil processed into fuels to capture pollution from the life-cycle of a barrel of oil.

Germany's move would be a landmark in the development of carbon trading, which was enshrined in the 1997 Kyoto Protocol as a tool for reining in emissions. The existing EU ETS got underway in 2005, with allowances hitting as much as 31 euros in 2006.

This week, Merkel's Christian Democrats are seeking to strike a common position with their coalition partners, the Social Democrats, on how to make deeper cuts in emissions. An agreement is due at a cabinet meeting set for Friday.

Exactly what level of pricing isn't decided, but after a few years at a fixed rate, Germany's plan is likely to include California-style floors and ceiling prices.

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# WORLD

## Challenge to Parliament shutdown nearing end

By JILL LAWLESS  
Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's Supreme Court was hearing final arguments Thursday in a case that will determine whether Prime Minister Boris Johnson broke the law by suspending Parliament just weeks before the U.K. is due to leave the European Union.

Judges at the country's top court were set to hear from a

lawyer for the former prime minister, John Major, who is among those challenging the decision by Johnson, one of his successors as Conservative leader.

Opponents claim Johnson sent lawmakers home until Oct. 14 to prevent them scrutinizing his plan to take Britain out of the EU at the end of next month, with or without a divorce deal. They also accuse the prime minister of

misleading Queen Elizabeth II, whose formal approval was needed to suspend the legislature.

The government says the suspension is routine and not motivated by Brexit, and argues that judges should not interfere in politics.

The 11 Supreme Court justices are unlikely to give their judgment before Friday at the earliest. If the court rules that the suspen-

sion was illegal, Johnson could be forced to call lawmakers back to Parliament.

It would be a new blow for Johnson, who is battling to fulfill his pledge to lead Britain out of the EU on the scheduled date of Oct. 31 come what may.

Johnson insists he is working hard to get an agreement with the EU that will ensure a smooth departure. EU leaders are skepti-

cal of that claim, saying the U.K. has not produced any concrete proposals.

Finland's Prime Minister Antti Rinne warned that "it's all over" if Britain didn't come up with solid new Brexit proposals by the end of the month.

U.K. Brexit Secretary Steve Barclay said the six weeks until Oct. 31 were "sufficient for a deal" if both sides provided "creative and flexible solutions."



SEAN KILPATRICK, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks about a photo of himself wearing brownface, on his campaign plane in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on Wednesday.

## Trudeau apologizes over brownface photos

Associated Press

TORONTO — Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's campaign moved to contain a growing scandal Thursday after a yearbook photo surfaced of him in brownface at a 2001 costume party and two other similar incidents also came to light.

With the election a month away, he apologized and begged for forgiveness.

Time magazine published the photo on Wednesday, saying it was taken from the yearbook from the West Point Grey Academy, a private school in British Columbia where Trudeau worked as a teacher before entering politics. It shows the then-29-year-old Trudeau in a turban and robe with dark makeup on his hands, face and neck.

Trudeau, who launched his re-election

campaign a week ago, said he should have known better.

"I'm pissed off at myself. I'm disappointed in myself," he told reporters on his campaign plane.

He is the latest in a string of politicians to get in trouble over racially offensive photos and actions from their younger days.

Earlier this year, Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam faced intense pressure to resign after a racist picture surfaced from his 1984 medical school yearbook page. He denied being in the picture but admitted wearing blackface as a young man while portraying Michael Jackson at a dance party in the 1980s. Since then, Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring has acknowledged wearing blackface in college, and Alabama

Gov. Kay Ivey has apologized donning blackface during a college skit more than 50 years ago. None has resigned.

The photo of Trudeau was taken at the school's annual dinner, which had an "Arabian Nights" theme that year, Trudeau said, adding that he was dressed as a character from "Aladdin."

The prime minister said it was not the first time he darkened his face. He said he once did it while performing a version of Harry Belafonte's "Banana Boat Song (Day-O)" during a talent show.

"I should have known better then, but I didn't, and I am deeply sorry for it," Trudeau said. "I'm going to ask Canadians to forgive me for what I did. I shouldn't have done that. I take responsibility for it."

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# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Woman sparks fire by burning love letters

**NE** LINCOLN — It seems this love was too hot to handle.

Police in Lincoln said a 19-year-old woman sparked an apartment fire by burning love letters from her ex in her bedroom.

Police said the woman used a butane torch to burn the letters and left some of them on the floor. She then went to another room to take a nap. Police said she awoke a short time later to find the carpet on fire.

Officials say the fire caused an estimated \$4,000 in damage to the building. No one was injured.

## Bull leads police on nearly 20-mile chase

**NH** BRISTOL — Police said an aggressive bull took authorities on a 14-hour, 18-mile chase through three New Hampshire communities before they had to shoot and kill it.

NECN.com reported police in Bristol said they had no choice but to euthanize the 3,000-pound animal before it hurt someone.

Police said at the request of the animal's owner, Melissa Traber, they euthanized the bull as soon as they could do so safely.

## Project underway to explore shipwrecks

**ME** PORTLAND — A new project to explore the wreck of the ship dubbed as New England's Titanic is underway.

The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution partnered with NOAA's Office of Marine Sanctuaries and Marine Imaging Technologies as a part of a three-year project to explore shipwrecks.

The Portland Press Herald reports researchers reached the SS Portland shipwreck Monday and will livestream their work to schools and museums around the country.

The luxury steamship carried passengers between Portland and Boston before it sank in 1898, killing about 200 people on board.

## Researchers nurse, study injured rare whale

**MS** GULFPORT — Veterinarians say that a rare whale found stranded along the Mississippi coast with shark bite wounds is showing signs of improvement in his recovery.

News outlets reported fishermen spotted the melon-headed whale near Cat Island, Institute for Marine Mammal Studies researchers said the juvenile whale had bite marks and lesions on his body.

Veterinarian Christa Barrett said he's making strides, and she hopes to get him swimming and eating on his own before releasing him.

## Amish males abandon horse-and-buggy

**OH** NORTH BLOOMFIELD — Two Amish males ran from sheriff's deputies



SETH WENIG/AP

# The shape of protests

Artist Domenic Esposito, right, and other members of the Opioid Spoon Project, wheel a sculpture of a large spoon across the street in New Brunswick, N.J., on Wednesday. The Opioid Spoon Project is using sculptures of bent spoons, similar to ones that might be used to abuse opioids, to bring attention to the opioid crisis and the companies they claim helped to create the crisis.

ties after they were pulled over in Trumbull County, leaving behind a horse-drawn buggy that had beer and a stereo system inside, according to reports.

WKBN Channel 27 reported deputies still haven't found the two males, who ran into a wooded area.

The buggy was towed and the horse is being care for until an owner comes forward.

Deputies reportedly found a 12-pack of Michelob Ultra on top of the buggy and several open bottles were found inside. The buggy also was equipped with a stereo system, WKBN reported.

## Cougar inside house lies down in bathroom

**CA** SONORA — Officials said a mountain lion wandered inside a California house and was captured in a photo lying on a bathroom floor.

The Tuolumne County Sheriff's office said in a Facebook post that family members and the mountain lion ran away from each other after the cougar entered the home when the door was opened to let in cool air.

The big cat dashed to the second-story bathroom of the home in the Sierra Nevada foothills town of Sonora and the family ran away from it.

The mountain lion was coaxed out of the bathroom window by sheriff's deputies and state wild-

## THE CENSUS

145

The weight in pounds of marijuana officers found in a Kansas woman's car after she was stopped. Sheriff's Sgt. Todd Staibauer said the marijuana was destined for the Topeka area. The Topeka Capital-Journal reported Janae Williams of Topeka faces possible charges of possession with intent to distribute and possession of drug paraphernalia. The marijuana was worth an estimated \$500,000.

life officers. Then it jumped to the ground.

## Chief: Woman found with maggots in wounds

**LA** CROWLEY — Police in Louisiana said an elderly woman found with maggots in wounds on her legs and ankles is now recovering in an extended-care facility.

News outlets reported a relative took the unidentified woman to a hospital in Crowley and police were called.

Officers questioned Raymond Hoffpauir, 57, and Dustin Welch, 27, who were reportedly the woman's caregivers.

Crowley police Chief Jimmy Broussard said both men admitted to neglecting the woman. The chief said the woman hadn't received needed insulin injections in weeks and she may have been bitten by a rat and roaches inside her home.

Hoffpauir and Welch are charged with cruelty to the infirm.

## Woman sells classic cars, memorabilia

**MO** CAPE GIRARDEAU — A massive collection of classic cars, vintage service station pumps, spark plugs and signage is headed to the auction block.

The Southeast Missourian reported that Joan McPherson, 80, of Cape Girardeau said it's time to let somebody else enjoy the collection that she amassed with her late husband, Wayne. But she said she has "mixed emotions" about Saturday's sale.

During 56 years of adventures trailing Southeast Missouri State University baseball — 70 games per season — they filled three garages and a house with autos, taxidermy, memorabilia and paintings.

## Squad on probation after banner displayed

**NC** NEW LONDON — A high school cheerlead-

ing squad in North Carolina is on probation after some cheerleaders posed with a banner supporting President Donald Trump before a football game.

Stanly County Schools Superintendent Jeff James told The Associated Press in an email that the warning was levied by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

It happened before the Aug. 30 game at North Stanly High School, northeast of Charlotte. News outlets reported that the banner read: "Trump 2020: Make America Great Again."

The superintendent said all North Carolina schools have a policy against displaying political signs.

## Police use sirens to drive bear up tree

**UT** OREM — Orem police used their vehicle sirens to drive a 2-year-old bear up a tree after its presence in the central Utah city caused traffic delays.

State Division of Wildlife Resources spokeswoman Faith Heaton Jolley said division personnel then were able to tranquilize the bear and remove it from the tree. Jolley said the bear was placed in a trap and relocated to the Wasatch Mountains.

From wire reports



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## BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Fed trims rate, hesitant to signal more cuts

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A sharply divided Federal Reserve cut its benchmark interest rate Wednesday for a second time this year but declined to signal that further rate cuts are likely this year.

The Fed's move reduced its key short-term rate — which influences many consumer and business loans — by an additional quarter-point to a range of 1.75% to 2%.

The action was unopposed 7-3, with two officials preferring to keep rates unchanged and one arguing for a bigger half-point cut. The divisions on the policy committee underscored the challenges for Chairman Jerome Powell in guiding the Fed at a time of high economic uncertainty.

The Fed did leave the door open to additional rate cuts — if, as Powell suggested at a news conference, the economy weakens. For now, he suggested, the economic expansion appears durable in its 11th year, with a still-solid job market and steady consumer spending.

At the same time, the Fed is trying to combat threats including uncertainties caused by President Donald Trump's trade war with

China, slower global growth and a slump in American manufacturing. The Fed noted in its statement that business investment and exports have weakened.

Financial markets closed mostly higher after the Fed's afternoon announcement although the diverging opinions on the Fed left some investors uncertain how many more rate cuts the Fed will deliver. The Dow Jones Industrial Average after being down most of the day finished up 36.28 points, or 0.1%, to 27,147.08.

At his news conference, Powell acknowledged that Fed officials are sharply divided about the wisest course for interest rates, especially given uncertainties, like trade conflicts, whose outcomes are out of the Fed's control.

"This is a time of difficult judgments and disparate perspectives," the chairman said.

In any case, many business leaders are skeptical that the Fed's slight rate cuts will deliver much economic benefit.

Wednesday's rate cut "makes virtually no difference to the U.S. economy in and of itself," said Jamie Dimon, CEO of JPMorgan Chase, who suggested, as many corporate leaders have, that Trump's trade war remains an overarching threat.

"I don't think cutting rates will offset trade, personally," said Dimon, head of the largest U.S. bank.

Among Powell's challenges is that the trade war's uncertainties are likely affecting the nation's economic data, making it hard for the Fed to set an interest-rate policy for the months ahead.

"It doesn't make sense to commit to a path of policy today when monetary policy is now responding to future developments in the trade policy," said Bill Adams, a senior economist at PNC Financial Services.

Wednesday's modest rate cut irritated Trump, who has attacked the central bank and insisted that it slash rates more aggressively. The president immediately signaled his discontent.

"Jay Powell and the Federal Reserve Fail Again," Trump tweeted. "No guts, no sense, no vision! A terrible communicator!"

Asked about Trump's latest personal taunt, Powell declined, as he has before, to respond directly while adding that the Fed's longstanding independence from political pressures "has served the public well."

Updated economic and interest rate forecasts issued Wednesday by the Fed show that only seven

of 17 officials foresee at least one additional rate cut this year. And at least two Fed officials expect a rate hike next year.

None of the policymakers foresee rates falling below 1.5% in 2020 — a sign that the turbulence from a global slowdown and Powell's escalation of the trade war is viewed as manageable.

The median forecasts show the economy is expected to grow a modest 2.2% this year, 2% next year and 1.9% in 2021. Those forecasts are well below the Trump administration's projection that the president's policies will accelerate growth to 3% annually or better. But they also suggest that policymakers do not envision a recession.

Unemployment is projected to be 3.7% and inflation 1.5%, below the Fed's target level of 2%.

A resumption of trade talks between the Trump administration and Beijing and a less antagonistic tone between the two sides have supported the view that additional rate cuts might not be necessary.

So has a belief that oil prices will remain elevated, that inflation might finally be reaching the Fed's target level and that there are increasing signs that the U.S. economy remains sturdy.

The job market looks solid, wages are rising, consumers are still spending and even such sluggish sectors as manufacturing and construction have shown signs of rebounding.

Yet no one, perhaps not even the Fed, is sure of how interest rate policy will unfold in coming months.

Too many uncertainties exist, notably the outcome of Trump's trade war.

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Sept. 20)	\$1.1349
Solar buy (Sept. 20)	€0.8811
British pound (Sept. 20)	\$1.28
Japanese yen (Sept. 20)	¥105.00
South Korean won (Sept. 20)	₩1,165.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Bart)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.2495
Canada (Dollar)	1.3263
China (Yuan)	7.0947
Denmark (Krone)	6.7506
Egypt (Pound)	16.3990
Euro	\$1.1061/0.9041
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8324
Hungary (Forint)	300.75
Israel (Shekel)	3.5119
Japan (Yen)	108.00
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3038
Norway (Krone)	8.9441
Philippines (Peso)	52.28
Poland (Zloty)	3.93
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7510
Singapore (Dollar)	1.1932
South Korea (Won)	1,163.00
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9926
Thailand (Baht)	30.53
Turkey (Lira)	5.6993
Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-military currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	2.50
Federals funds market rate	1.14
3-month bill	1.90
30-year bond	2.24

## EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$2.815	\$3.213	\$3.466	\$3.250
Netherlands	+0.2 cents	No change	+0.1 cents	+1.6 cents
Netherlands	Change in price	+\$3.817	\$4.025	\$4.071
U.K.	+\$3.123	\$3.376	\$3.160	\$3.160
U.K.	Change in price	No change	+0.1 cents	+1.6 cents
Azores	Change in price	+\$3.457	—	—
Belgium	Change in price	+\$2.878	\$2.991	\$3.107
Turkey	Change in price	No change	+\$3.267	\$3.051*
Turkey	Change in price	—	+0.1 cents	+1.6 cents

## PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	—	\$3.259	—	\$3.039
Japan	Change in price	No change	—	+1.0 cents
Okunawa	Change in price	\$2.609	—	\$3.039
South Korea	Change in price	\$2.636	—	\$3.069
South Korea	Change in price	+1.0 cents	—	+1.0 cents
Guam	Change in price	\$2.619**	\$3.009	\$3.269
Guam	Change in price	+1.0 cents	No change	—

\* Diesel EFD \*\* Midgrade  
For the week of Sept. 20 - 26

## MARKET WATCH

	Sept. 18, 2019
Dow Jones Industrials	36.28
Nasdaq composite	-6.62
Standard & Poor's 500	1.03
Russell 2000	-9.95
	1,568.34

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center. 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

# WEEKEND



'Ad Astra'  
Movies, Page 36



## COUNTRY MUSIC

A FILM BY KEN BURNS

8-part history of the genre starts Saturday on AFN-Spectrum

Review, Page 23 ■ Series shows impact of music during wartime, Page 24

## WEEKEND: GADGETS



BILL O'LEARY/The Washington Post

Jonathon Perrelli is the founder and CEO of LifeFuels. The company's hydration system consists of a \$179 smart bottle that combines water and cartridges of flavoring, vitamins and minerals.

# Betting on good hydration

## Entrepreneur hopes tech-enhanced bottle is a hit

By THOMAS HEATH  
The Washington Post

If I'd told a buddy to hydrate (even if I knew what that meant, which I didn't) when I was growing up in Syracuse, N.Y., in the 1960s, he would have thought I was mocking him. A water break on the outdoor basketball court where we all hung out meant running to the fire station next to the playground and using the fountain. Better yet, if you had a dime or 15 cents, you could buy a Royal Palm soda.

Soda is a dirty word today — both diet and sugared. So is plastic.

Hydration is everything. And now, everyone knows what it means.

Entrepreneur Jonathon Perrelli is introducing an electronic smart bottle called LifeFuels that he hopes will do for hydration what Fitbit has done for walking.

LifeFuels, based in Reston, Va., uses cartridges to shoot peach, citrus or blackberry-acai flavoring, as well as vitamins and minerals, into its smart water bottle. The bottle syncs to an iPhone app to enable you to record your intake of fluids and nutrients such as potassium and sodium.

"People like data," Perrelli said. "They want customization, portability and the ability to understand why they feel the way they do. And they want to track it all."

Perrelli has bet \$1 million of his own cash and spent the better part of a decade on LifeFuels.

After raising \$25 million, the company is launching this month in league with its partner, Massachusetts-based beverage giant Keurig Dr Pepper. They hope the apparatus creates a new coolness vibe around healthful sports drinks.

Perrelli, 47, has checked several boxes of importance to LifeFuels' target customer — an urban, eco-observant, health-minded consumer. First is hydration. Dehydration is a major cause of emergency room visits in the United States, Perrelli said. Drinking about two liters, or half a gallon, of water a day is a common recommendation.

Next is data. LifeFuels works with smart-phones, which gives millennials yet another reason to tap into their iPhones. Then there's sustainability. At \$179 a bottle, you aren't going to cast the LifeFuels vessel into

the trash. It should last for years and appeal to anyone who is against single-use plastic stuff.

LifeFuels comes nicely packaged in a box that includes the 16.9-ounce bottle, a rechargeable base, an electric charger and an initial supply of three flavored fuel pods. There's also a series of slick online videos with instructions.

The key to LifeFuels' success will be selling subscriptions to people so that they buy the pods on autopilot — at \$9.99 a pod, or about 33 cents a serving — thus creating a stream of recurring revenue.

"Fuel pod usage is important to our long-term success," Perrelli said.

The bottles are manufactured in China, and everything else is made in the United States, including the flavored fuel pods. The user screws a fuel pod into the base of the bottle and pushes a button to squirt enough concentrate for one serving.

Perrelli has been a student of supply and demand, and of the psychology of marketing, since he was a youth growing up in Northern Virginia, where he first sold candy to fellow students and then graduated to fireworks. He pocketed \$7,000 one summer on a \$400 fireworks investment.

"Fireworks had insane margins," Perrelli said. "Entrepreneurship has always been part of who I am."

He used the cash to buy his first stocks, in General Motors and Coca-Cola.

Perrelli graduated from Virginia Tech in 1995 with a degree in finance, and he has had several hits and a few misses in a quarter-century of investing.

Investing success often comes down to timing. "A brilliant idea at the wrong time is destined to fail," Perrelli said.

He thinks he has the timing — and the target customer — just right for LifeFuels. The idea came to him in 2006, when Perrelli's then-wife was pregnant with their third child.

"She was having a challenging time staying hydrated and consuming the recommended nutrients and vitamins," Perrelli said.

He began monitoring her water consumption, first with Post-it Notes and then with a computer spreadsheet. Sensing a business there, he started noodling with ideas and arrived at an early concept of the LifeFuels bottle.

## GADGET WATCH

# Sound, technology that's worth the wait

By GREGG ELLMAN  
Tribune News Service

My gadget reviews often have to wait until the parent company lifts the announcement embargo with the official release. And often it's frustrating simply because I'm testing something so good that I want to tell people about it right then and there, but I can't.

That's the case with the MOMENTUM wireless (Bluetooth S) headphones from Sennheiser. After using the headphones, I'd have to flip a coin to decide what was better, the sound or the built-in technology. Both are off-the-charts great.

Sennheiser is one of those companies that doesn't seem to miss when it comes to impressive audio solutions. I had the press release for this latest product a few days before my review unit arrived. I was excited about some of the features, such as the auto on/off, even before I tested it.

Just unfold the headphones to put them on and fold them to put away. With the auto on/off feature, when you put the headphones on, the music automatically plays; when you take them off, it pauses. Go back and forth all you want; it works. I tried to go fast or slow and stump it. The MOMENTUMs won that game by far.

The MOMENTUM looks stunning and is made with genuine sheep leather. It features an adjustable soft padded leather headband, padded earcups and its overall appearance wowed me before a tune was played.

As I said, Sennheiser doesn't miss, and that remains true with this third generation of the MOMENTUM line, especially when it comes to what's most important — the sound.

As is usual for my testing, I tried the headphones, which have 42mm drivers, in a steel tube at 34,000 feet; instead of Apple Music, I was watching the Elton John movie biography "Rocketman." While the movie itself didn't impress me, listening to

the audio in high volume on the new MOMENTUMs was outstanding. After the movie, I did troll around streaming music. With any genre playlist, the sound, at head-banging levels or low level, had incredible clarity at any volume.

Another feature I loved is the active noise cancellation and a transparent hearing function, which I had turned on to block out the airplane engine noise. If you're walking around outside you might want to have it turned off (a great option) so you're more aware of what's around you, such as oncoming traffic while crossing a street. But it's great if you're simply trying to block out everything around you.

Controlling volume, musical tracks and answering calls are all done with easy-to-access buttons on the outside of the earcups. The headphones also feature access to voice assistants Google Assistant and Siri, with Amazon Alexa integration coming soon. Test results with the headphones for hands-free calls were heard crystal clear on my end and I'm happy to say my mom heard me crystal clear on her end.

With Sennheiser's Smart Control app (iOS and Android), it takes seconds to customize features and sound in the headphones, including an equalizer and a choice of three noise-cancellation modes.

Like any other gadget, headphones are easy to lose, but Sennheiser has put a significant piece of technology in these headphones with the Tile Tracker. The app talks with the integrated Bluetooth Tile Tracker to help locate the device if it's still within range.

Audio 3.5 mm and USB-C charging cables are included, along with a travel case for the fold-up headphones.

If you couldn't tell already, I'm a fan of the MOMENTUM. Get them for yourself, or put them on the top of your must-have list for the holidays.

Online: [en.us.sennheiser.com](http://en.us.sennheiser.com); \$399.95, available in black now and a sandy white model available in November



SENNHEISER/TNS

The Sennheiser MOMENTUM wireless headphones are available now in black, or in November in sandy white.



## WEEKEND: TELEVISION



What is



## COUNTRY MUSIC



## REVIEW

It's a complicated question, and Ken Burns has compiled a 16-hour answer in new series

By DAN DELUCA  
*The Philadelphia Inquirer*

**L**il Nas X did Ken Burns a favor. For eight years, the documentary filmmaker known for tackling not-small subjects such as “The Civil War” (1990), “Jazz” (2001) and “The Vietnam War” (2017) has been toiling on another epic. The eight-part, 16-hour-plus documentary miniseries, “Country Music: A Film by Ken Burns,” which aired last week in the States, begins airing on AFN-Spectrum on Sept. 21.

“Country Music” poses an essential question: What is country music? That’s essentially the same one brought about by the success of “Old Town Road,” Lil Nas X’s enormous “Is it country, or is it rap?” hit that has caused country music gatekeepers to write their hands in 2019.

The miniseries has an almost accidental relevance due to Lil Nas’ popularity, although the documentary shows that the debate always has been raging.

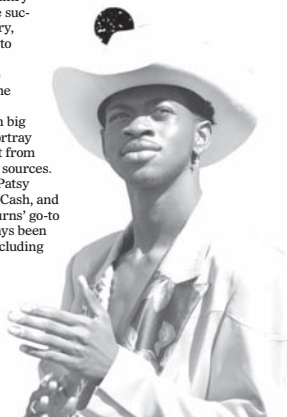
To Burns’ credit, his exhaustive — and yes, when taken in big gulps, kind of exhausting — history goes out of its way to portray country as non-monolithic, not exclusively white, music that from its beginnings has been a mongrel mix drawn from various sources.

In the fourth installment, which covers the 1950s rise of Patsy Cline, the Memphis rockabilly of Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash, and Ray Charles’ soul-country foray across the racial divide, Burns’ go-to narrator Peter Coyote intones that “country music had always been a mixture of influences from its diverse, entangled roots, including Appalachian ballads, gospel, cowboy songs and the blues.”

SEE COUNTRY ON PAGE 26

Clockwise from top left:  
Patsy Cline, The Carter Family,  
Hank Williams and Lil Nas X.

All photos PBS except Lil Nas X (AP)



## 6 surprising revelations

**1. The time Merle saw Johnny:** When country legend Johnny Cash delivered a historic New Year’s Day concert at San Quentin State Prison in 1959, the audience included a young inmate named Merle Haggard. Inspired by Cash’s performance, Haggard, who had just turned 21, decided that when he became a free man he would get his life together and follow in Cash’s footsteps. He was paroled in 1960.

**2. Marty Stuart’s wedding vow:** Tossing out fun and insightful anecdotes like so much coriotti, Stuart is arguably the most engaging talking head featured in the series. One of his best stories is about how he met country singer Connie Smith at a concert when he was 11 years old. So smitten was Stuart that he told his mother that he’d marry Smith someday. It took a while, but in 1997 he did just that.

**3. Dolly’s kiss-off song:** Most people associate the rousing ballad “I Will Always Love You” with Whitney Houston. But it was written and first sung by Dolly Parton, who penned it as a farewell to her overbearing mentor, Porter Wagoner. He had long featured Parton on his popular TV show and resisted her efforts to branch out on her own. Said Burns in an interview with TV Guide, “Once you know the story, Dolly’s version achieves a parity with Whitney’s — and, in some ways, is even better because you understand all the powerful emotions.”

**4. Minnie Pearl’s true identity:** Millions of fans came to know Minnie Pearl as a popular character who appeared at the Grand Ole Opry and on the TV show “Hee Haw.” The alter ego of Sarah Ophelia Colley, Minnie was a simple country woman clad in “down home” dresses and a hat with a price tag hanging from it. In real life, Colley, who died in 1996, was a college-educated aspiring actress who studied Shakespeare, and was from a prosperous Tennessee family.

**5. Willie’s guardian angel:** As a fledgling young songwriter, Willie Nelson was so strapped for cash that he routinely sold off writing credits on his songs at bargain-basement prices. In 1961, he penned a tune called “Hello Walls” and offered to sell the credit to Faron Young (aka the Hillybilly Heartthrob) for just \$500. Instead, Young gave Nelson a loan of \$500 — if he promised not to sell it to anyone else. “Hello Walls” became a big crossover hit and Nelson’s first royalty check totaled \$14,000.

**6. Garth loves you back:** A recurring topic in the series is the incredible bond that country music fans share with their idols. Says Stuart, “The industry was truly built one handshake at a time, one autograph at a time.” To wit: At the peak of his popularity, Garth Brooks showed up at a fan fest unannounced — not to play, but to sign. He just got out of his truck, parked himself in one spot and reportedly signed autographs for more than 20 hours.

— Chuck Barney  
The Mercury News (San Jose, Calif.)



# WEEKEND: TELEVISION



Sony Music Archives

Johnny Cash at his home in California in 1960. Cash spent four years in the Air Force before being honorably discharged as a staff sergeant. Eventually, Cash would give Kris Kristofferson, another veteran turned musician, his big break by recording one of Kristofferson's songs.

## Among the threads in Burns' latest doc is a story of Americans at war

By NIKKI WENTLING  
*Stars and Stripes*

Country music has attempted through its songs to reflect the happenings of its time, relaying the sense of duty felt during World War II, the national divisions caused by the Vietnam War and the renewed patriotism following the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

In "Country Music," the newest documentary series from filmmaker Ken Burns, the story of the genre also is one of America at war.

"Each generation of country music singers have always tried to reflect their times," Burns said during a recent interview with Stars and Stripes. "Not just these internal emotions, but what's going on. That prompts Elton Britt, Gene Autry and Patsy Montana during World War II, and another time it prompts Jan Howard and Merle Haggard, and another time Alan Jackson."

"Country Music" is 16 hours long, spread across eight episodes, premiering Saturday, Sept. 21, on AFN-Spectrum. The series includes interviews with more than 80 country music artists who explain how the genre evolved from the early 1930s to the mid-1990s.

The second episode puts focus on World War II, and how the conflict spread country music across the nation. In the sixth, musicians and historian Bill Malone look back at America during the Vietnam War era — a point in time that led to the genre's increased politicization.

### 'Soundtrack to World War II'

During the Great Depression, and later World War II, country music grew in popularity. It expressed the experiences of America's working people and a sense of loss — themes relatable to the time.

Its tendency to spotlight real emotions and delve into love and loss is part of the reason Burns chose country

music as a focus for his documentary, he said.

"From my very first film that I started working on 42 years ago, I've been interested in an emotional archaeology — not excavating dry data and facts and events from the past, and not succumbing to the superficial syrupy nostalgia and sentimentality," Burns said. "And I don't think I know of any other film I've worked on that prompts those emotions like country music."

As the first peacetime draft was instituted in the U.S. in 1940, country artists turned their attention — and their music — toward World War II.

The Carter Family, an American folk group, released "Why Do You Cry, Little Darling?" about a girl whose sweetheart had been drafted into the Army. Patsy Montana recorded "I'll Be Waiting for You, Darlin'," which had a similar theme.

Elton Britt sang "There's a Star-Spangled Banner Waving Somewhere," a patriotic anthem about a disabled man struggling to find a way to serve his country. In "Smoke on the Water," Bob Wills promised revenge against America's enemies.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



Gene Autry, nicknamed The Singing Cowboy, enlisted in the Army Air Corps during a live broadcast of his Western variety show "Melody Ranch" in 1942 and went on to pilot a C-109 cargo plane on a dangerous operation over the Himalayas.

Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum

# WEEKEND: TELEVISION

## FROM PAGE 24

Gene Autry, nicknamed The Singing Cowboy, enlisted in the Army Air Corps during a live broadcast of his Western variety show "Melody Ranch" in 1942 and went on to pilot a C-109 cargo plane on a dangerous operation over the Himalayas. He later shared wartime experiences through his music, including the song "At Mail Call Today," describing a young soldier learning that the girl he loved back home had left him.

As more Americans joined the military, country music spread. Armed Forces Radio added the Grand Ole Opry to its regular rotation, helping the Nashville-based broadcast to surge into prominence, the documentary explains.

Many members of the military from the northern and western U.S. were introduced to country music during their World War II service.

"I think a large number of people who serve in our military come from rural and southern areas — the places where country music was first born and nurtured," Burns said. "So, they bring their culture ... and what you have is the ultimate melting pot."

If it hadn't reached them already, country music was brought home by those who had served.

## Country artists respond to the Vietnam War

Similar to World War II, the soldiers serving in the Vietnam War disproportionately came from country music's core audience of working-class families, according to Burns' documentary. At one point during the war, it was reported that 65% of all records sold at military bases were from the country music genre.

With growing divisions over America's involvement in Vietnam, country music was used in a variety of ways: to describe the human cost of war, to both criticize and issue support for the anti-war protesters and to represent the so-called "silent majority" of Americans who supported the U.S. military's involvement in Vietnam.

Following the breakup of the Foggy Mountain Boys, one of its members, Earl Scruggs, performed for hundreds of thousands of anti-war protesters in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 15, 1969 — one of the only country music artists in attendance.

Around the same time, Merle Haggard released "Okie from Muskogee," which inadvertently became the rallying cry for those who supported the war in Vietnam. Malone said the song was viewed by many as upholding small-town life and those Americans who paid their taxes and defended their government.

When President Richard Nixon invited legendary musician Johnny Cash to perform at the White House in 1972, he chose to sing "What is Truth?" — a song that hailed the idea of youth and freedom. In "Country Music," Cash's choice was described as a "full-throated defence" of those who questioned authority and spoke out about

**"I think a large number of people who serve in our military come from rural and southern areas — the places where country music was first born and nurtured. So, they bring their culture ... and what you have is the ultimate melting pot."**

Ken Burns  
filmmaker



Read a Q&A  
with Burns at  
[stripes.com/go/burns](http://stripes.com/go/burns)

injustice.

Jan Howard, a country music singer and Grand Ole Opry star, also supported Americans' right to protest — but she adamantly refused to join them.

Two of Howard's three sons enlisted in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War. In "My Son," she recounted her favorite memories with her oldest son, James, when he was a child. Soon after, James was killed when his armored personnel carrier hit a landmine. Her middle son returned from Vietnam, but the youngest, David, was traumatized by his brother's death and later killed himself.

"So, the Vietnam War took two," Howard said during episode six of the documentary. "It was a horrible war."

Soon after James' death, an anti-war protester went to Howard's home and asked her to join a demonstration in Memphis. Howard declined. "I said, 'One of the reasons he died was so you'd have the right in this country, so go ahead and demonstrate. Have at it,'" Howard recounted. "I said, 'No, I won't be joining you. But I tell you what, if you ever ring my doorbell again, I will blow your damn head off with a .367 Magnum.'"

At the end of episode six — which focused largely on division in the United States — the filmmakers turned to the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band's recording of "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?" which exemplified music's power as a unifier.

The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, described in the documentary as a



Les Leverett

**The Grand Ole Opry, the longest-running radio broadcast in U.S. history, began in 1925 but gained nationwide popularity during World War II. Armed Forces Radio added the Grand Ole Opry to its regular rotation during the conflict, helping the broadcast surge into prominence.**

**Left: Merle Haggard appears on "The Johnny Cash Show" in 1970. Haggard's "Okie from Muskogee" inadvertently became the rallying cry for those who supported the Vietnam War.**

Les Leverett

**Below: After Lester Flatt, left, and Earl Scruggs, right, broke up the Foggy Mountain Boys, Scruggs performed for hundreds of thousands of anti-war protesters in Washington on Nov. 15, 1969. He was one of the only country artists in attendance.**

Marty Stuart Archives



long-haired hippie group, went to Nashville and recruited famous bluegrass and country artists, including Roy Acuff, Maybelle Carter and Earl Scruggs, to collaborate on the album. The most collaborators joined in on "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?" which was chosen as the album's name. The song is a Christian hymn, written in 1907.

"I think that's an important point — the music comes to the rescue and expresses these things that connect us and not what divides us," Burns said.

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# WEEKEND: TELEVISION

## 10 hit songs in which country brags about its identity crisis

### 'You're Lookin' at Country,' Loretta Lynn (1971)

Among the earliest songs to proclaim its rural realism was Lynn's 1971 single, with its unrepentant refrain, "When you're lookin' at me / You're lookin' at country." That song arrived during Nashville's "Countrypolitan" era, when many producers and musicians were striving to expand the genre's reach beyond its blue-collar base by using orchestral accompaniment, background choirs and other trappings of pop music.

### 'Thank God I'm a Country Boy,' John Denver (1975)

The folk musician turned pop-rock star proto-rapped his country bona fides on the hit song: "Well, life on the farm is kinda laid back / Ain't much an old country boy like me can't hack / It's early to rise / Early in the car / Thank God I'm a country boy," sang the man who often flew in the Lear Jet he named WindStar 1 from his studio to city while on tour.

### 'Are You Sure Hank Done It This Way,' Waylon Jennings (1975)

One of the original outlaws delivered a sense of the genre, as he wondered whether Nashville's commercial success was coming at the expense of innovation: "Lord, it's the same old tune, fiddle and guitar / Where do we take it from here? / Rhinestone suits and new shiny cars / It's been the same way for years / We need a change."

### 'I Was Country When Country Wasn't Cool,' Barbara Mandrell (1981)

Mandrell responded to the flurry of interest in country music among new audiences sparked by the 1980 film "Urban Cowboy," which moved countless bar owners across the country to install bull-riding machines and triggered explosive sales of Stetsons and Tony Lama boots to city slickers. "I was listenin' to the Opry / When all of my friends were diggin' rock 'n' roll and rhythm & blues / I'm country, when country wasn't cool," her hit song, in which George Jones asserted.

### 'Who's Gonna Fill Their Shoes,' George Jones (1985)

Jones got into the act on his own with a song that lamented the fading of country superstars from the radio airwaves as a new crop of country stars emerged: "There will never be another Red-Headed Stranger / A Man in Black and Folsom Prison Blues / The Okie From Muskogee / Or Hello Darling / Lord, I wonder, when's gonna fill their shoes?" alluding to Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard and Conway Twitty, respectively, before adding a nod to Grand Ole Opry stalwart Roy Acuff: "Who's gonna play the Opry / And the Wabash Cannonball?"

### 'Murder on Music Row,' George Strait and Alan Jackson (2000)

Neo-traditionalists Strait and Jackson walked the knife's edge with their version of a lament for the evisceration of traditional country music from the airwaves at the dawn of the new millennium. "For the steel guitars no longer cry and fiddles barely play / But drums and rock 'n' roll guitars are mixed up in your face / Old Hank wouldn't have a chance on today's radio / Since they committed murder down on Music Row."

### 'Long Time Gone,' Dixie Chicks (2002)

The Dixie Chicks reached No. 2 on Billboard's Hot Country Songs chart with their hit, which measured the wear of some of the Chicks' peers against that of their celebrated predecessors. Guess who fell short: "Now they sound tired but they don't sound Haggard / They've got money but they don't have Cash / They got Junior but they don't have Hank / I think, I think, I think, the rest is / A long time gone."

### 'A Little More Country Than That,' Easton Corbin (2009)

Name-checking country greets from the past has become a rite of passage for aspiring country artists. Corbin's song invokes the name and sound of perhaps country's most celebrated singer and songwriter, Hank Williams: "Think of a Hank song from days gone / With a steel ride that's so strong / It sends chills up your back / I'm a little more country than that."

### 'This Is Country Music,' Brad Paisley (2011)

Paisley and co-writer Chris Dubois crafted a virtual public service announcement saluting their genre in his 2011 hit that premiered at the annual CMA Awards: "Well, you're not supposed to say the word 'cancer' in a song / And tellin' folks Jesus is the answer, can rub 'em wrong / It ain't hip to sing about trucks, trucks / Little towns, or mama, yeah, that might be true / But this is country music and we do."

### 'Raised on Country,' Chris Young (2019)

Over the past decade, hardly a week goes by without another addition to the self-referential canon. Among the latest is Young's top 10 hit from this year: "I was raised on Merle, raised on Willie / Got my honky-tonk attitude from Joe Diffie / Daddy did too, it's family tradition / If someone cranks it up, you can't help but listen / My upbringing sounds like George Strait singing / And I gotta give props to the radio / Cause if you know me, I was raised on country."

— Randy Lewis  
Los Angeles Times

### COUNTRY, FROM PAGE 23

The miniseries covers 75 years of country, starting in 1923, when visionary record man Ralph Peer recorded Fiddlin' John Carson singing "The Little Old Log Cabin in the Lane" and ending in 1996, when Garth Brooks was at the height of his stadium-sized popularity. The persistent, patient show makes time for the many strands of the country story, interlaced with 20th century societal upheaval and technological change.

There's the jazzy Western swing of Bob Willis & the Texas Playboys, bluegrass of Bill Monroe, soul-searing honky-tonk of Hank Williams, down-home genius of Loretta Lynn and Dolly Parton, country rock of the Byrds, outlaw rebellion of Willie Nelson and Waylon Jennings and the New Traditionalist uprising of Steve Earle and Dwight Yoakam.

As Vince Gill puts it: "If you asked what country music is, it wouldn't be one thing. It's been a million things."

Burns emphasizes the ways country has woven together the musical styles, songs and instrumentation of rural whites and blacks.

He highlights the contributions of African Americans like mainstream successes Charley Pride and Darius Rucker, while shining light on racism as in the case of DeFord Bailey, the original Grand Ole Opry harmonica player fired in 1941 because he was labeled "lazy."

A.P. Carter, the patriarch of the foundational band the Carter Family — who recorded classics like "Wildwood Flower" and "Keep on the Sunnyside" across the river from Philadelphia at the Victor Recording Company in Camden — built the group's repertoire by traveling in the rural South with his African American "songcatcher" associate, blues man Lesley Riddle.

There are many examples of white country stars who went onto fame after studying under the tutelage of lesser-known black musicians. "Hillbilly Shakespeare" Hank Williams was mentored by African American street musician Rufus "Tee Tot" Payne. And country's cross-cultural connotations all the way back: Banjos come from Africa, fiddles from the British Isles.

Burns brings that history into play to inform a debate that's always under discussion in a musical genre that has nostalgia for bygone days deep in its DNA. Whenever the forces of modernity threaten to strip away its core values, the old ways are romanticized and valorized.

The documentary — which can be accompanied by a five-CD, 105-song box set whose music is also available in condensed form on a 58-song Spotify playlist — arrives as a spirited debate is already underway.

That's thanks to Lil Nas, the cowboy hat-wearing 20-year-old rapper from Georgia whose song earlier this year exposed racial bias at country radio stations. It was excluded from Billboard's country chart because "it does not embrace enough elements of today's country music," even though its twangy sound is more "country" than most (often hip-hop flavored) bro-country pattern.

Lil Nas got the last laugh, of course, with the song ruling the Billboard pop chart for a record 19 consecutive weeks. And in righteous rebel tradition, he appears to be already opening doors and changing the idea of what country is: "The Git Up," a dance track by African American country rapper Blanco Brown, has gone where "Old Town Road" never did and topped the country charts.

Burns has explained his decision to end "Country Music" in the 1990s because, as he told *The Boot* this spring, "we're in the history business." "History is about the perspective that the passage of time permits you to have. As you get closer to the present, you suddenly realize you're kind of on thin ice about making

decisions."

That offers Burns an easy way out — he didn't want to make the hard decisions — when it comes to assessing recent developments in country, as the massively popular business has gotten further and further away from the musical touchstones treated with such reverence in the documentary, to the point that most new music that sounds truly country is labeled alt-country or Americana.

But "Country Music" does serve a relevant role in providing historical context and background to the current debate about country's identity, even if it doesn't speak to that issue directly.

It's also compelling edutainment, as the director uses his trademark "Ken Burns effect" of zooming in and panning over old still photographs to provide a sense of action when no video footage is available.

Burns employs a who's who of talking heads, lots of whom are impassioned and informed, like Rosanne Cash, Rhianonn Giddens, Ketch Secor of Old Crow Medicine Show, and Marty Stuart. These are people who care a lot, and know a lot. Stuart is particularly far, with mandolin in hand, ready to demonstrate the (tiny) differences between Earl Scruggs' "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" and Bill Monroe's "Bluegrass Breakdown." "Country Music" is a little heartbreaking, with screen time with now-deceased giants like Merle Haggard and Ralph Stanley. But there are living legends on hand, too, such as Parton and Tom T. Hall.

Brenda Lee is a particularly winning presence, remembering being looked after when she was a 12-year-old sensation by Cline, whom she calls "a great brood," and breaking into an impromptu version of Williams' "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry."

"Country Music" is as authoritative and well researched as you would expect, but can be frustrating in what it chooses to leave out, sometimes opting for the safe and obvious over the risky.

Bob Willis is rightly given his due, with jazz explication from Wynton Marsalis and anecdotes by Asleep at the Wheel leader Ray Benson. But how do you not include Spade Cooley, the Los Angeles World War II-era Western swing king who was convicted of the murder of his wife?

Similarly, the big names of the Sun Records rockabilly explosion are included. But lovable weirdos like Charlie Feathers are left by the wayside. Fans seeking more insight into country's dark and dark underbelly are recommended to check out Tyler Mahan Coe's "Cocaine & Rhinestones" podcast.

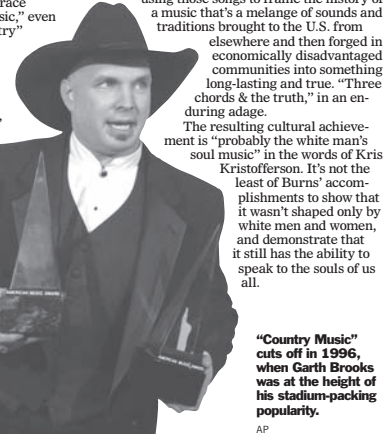
The documentary is subtitled "A History of America, One Song at a Time." And Burns is armed with bushel baskets full of great songs, from Jimmie Rodgers' "I.B. Blues" to Kitty Wells' "It Wasn't God who Made Honky Tonk Angels" to Randy Travis' "Diggin' Up Bones."

"Country Music" does a laudable job of using those songs to frame the history of

a music that's a melange of sounds and traditions brought to the U.S. from elsewhere and then forged in economically disadvantaged communities into something long-lasting and true. "Three chords & the truth," in an enduring adage. The resulting cultural achievement is "probably the white man's soul music" in the words of Kris Kristofferson. It's not the least of Burns' accomplishments to show that it wasn't shamed only by white men and women, and demonstrate that it still has the ability to speak to the souls of us all.

"Country Music" cuts off in 1996, when Garth Brooks was at the height of his stadium-packing popularity.

AP



## WEEKEND: MUSIC



Alyse Galkin

Patrick Carney, left, and Dan Auerbach continued to work on musical projects during their time away from the Black Keys.

# Rock 'n' roll revival

## Rested and refreshed, the Black Keys return after 5-year break

By KRISTIN M. HALL  
Associated Press

**W**hen the Black Keys last played a festival together in 2015, there was no grand plan to go on an indefinite hiatus. They just stopped booking shows and they went home to Nashville to sleep in their own beds.

Now four years after their performance at Outside Lands in San Francisco, Dan Auerbach and Patrick Carney are more than ready to hit the stage again with their first new record in five years, "Let's Rock," and a new tour.

Carney, for one, has noticed a difference since the band last toured. He recently woke up at 6 a.m. to change a diaper for his 1-year-old son that he shares with wife and fellow musician Michelle Branch and then dropped his stepdaughter off at school.

"That's a big change for me from five years ago," Carney said. "I would have been waking up at 11."

"Changing his own diaper," retorted Auerbach, himself a father of two. While their latest music video for their single "Go," pretends that the reason for their hiatus was because they hated each other, Carney likened their relationship to being as close as brothers.

"I love the guy, but also at the same time, man, sometimes I want to wring his neck," Carney said.

Auerbach responded: "I've never had those feelings about Pat."

Jokes aside, the four-time Grammy win-

ners behind hits like "Lonely Boy," "Howlin' For You" and "Tighten Up" needed to take a break from the road. Their touring schedule was taking a toll on their personal lives and it was up to them to put the brakes on it.

"No one who is working for us ... or with us is going to say, 'Yeah, don't generate any income for five years,'" said Carney. "We had to realize we needed to take a break and that's OK."

Heavily inspired by blues rock and low-fi garage rock, Carney and Auerbach met in high school in Akron, Ohio, in the '90s, tinkering around with four-track recording systems at Carney's house.

In the break, they both continued to work on separate musical projects as both producers and collaborators. Auerbach, who has won a Grammy for non-classical producer of the year, built up his label Easy Eye Sound with several emerging acts like Yola and highlighting unknown blues players like Leo "Bud" Welch, as well as working on his own solo album and producing Cage The Elephant's Grammy-winning rock album "Tell Me I'm Pretty." Carney also worked as a producer on his wife's last album, as well as producing Nashville artists such as "repeat repeat and Turbo Fruits."

"It's been really good for us," said Auerbach. "We really had fun making the new record when we did get back together. And I think it was because we were able to do all that different work during the time off."

And just as there was no plan to take a break, there was very little preparation

for their return to the studio. They came into Auerbach's studio in Nashville with no songs or lyrics prepared and no producer.

"We just set a date and showed up here at Dan's studio and it was the first time we had recorded music together in five years," said Carney.

They brought in engineers, but no outside producer like they had with Brian Burton, also known as Danger Mouse, who worked on their previous records "El Camino" and "Brothers." Those albums catapulted them from clubs and theaters to playing arenas like Madison Square Garden and festivals worldwide. But they wanted the recording process for this record to feel like they did at the beginning of their career.

"The fun always usually comes back to the two of us being in the studio," Carney said.

The album came out in June and the new tour with Modest Mouse as their opening band is much more manageable with just 33 dates in North America. They also added some extra guitar players on stage to replicate Auerbach's layered guitars on the recorded albums.

"Every single record we've ever made since the very beginning, I've always doubled up my guitars or tripled them up," said Auerbach. "And this is the first time I've ever really heard that onstage."

Even after the long break, Auerbach said he's not worried about whether fans will show up again.

"I think I am mostly worried we might pull a hammy or something," Auerbach said.

## REVIEW



### Charli XCX

Charli (Atlantic Records)

Charli XCX could easily have turned in a safe, hit-heavy pop-dance album this year. But where's the fun in that?

If Jack White is the mad scientist of rock, Charli XCX is the one for pop, a peripatetic mixologist and collaborator who seems happiest pushing the boundaries of what a three-minute song can do. She wonderfully doesn't color within the lines.

The fascinating 15-track "Charli" has the artist looking back with fondness ("1999"), peering into the future ("2099") and at her intimate present ("February 2017"). It can't even be contained in one language — French, Portuguese and Korean are heard.

Reunited with longtime producer A.G. Cook, her collaborators this time include Lizzo, Christine and the Queens, HAIM, Troye Sivan, Brooke Candy, CupcakKe, Big Freedia, Sky Ferreira, Clair and Yaeji.

Charli XCX, born Charlotte Aitchison, already achieved pure pop perfection in the past with "Boom Clap" and "Fancy" and simply replicating that seems to bore her.

Of course, she does offer some typically addictive pop tracks with "Cross You Out" and a subdued "Warm." She's even resurrected an old song — "Track 10" — cleaned it up, added the incomparable Lizzo and offered it anew as "Blame It on Your Love."

The standout "1999," a warmly nostalgic, Britney Spears-ish look at key pop culture icons of the '90s, is helped partly by Sivan hysterically crushing on Jonathan Taylor Thomas.

But the coolest parts of the album are when Charli XCX goes to the next level, like on "Click" and "Shake It," which aren't really songs as much as they are robots stuck in a blender and left in a monsoon.

Charli XCX has heard the future and has bookended her album with it. The first song — "Next Level Charli" — is either just one long chorus or lacks one, a signal of what may happen in this Spotify era. And the last song — "2099," with Sivan again — is a glorious, anarchic idea at what pop will sound like in 80 years.

We just hope Charli XCX will be around then, pushing it ever forward.

— Mark Kennedy  
Associated Press

## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Europe

## Give in and go to Germany's dreamy Rothenburg

As a young backpacker, I first fell in love with the picturesque village of Rothenburg, in Germany's Franconian heartland. At that time, the town still fed a few farm animals within its medieval walls. Today its barns are hotels, its livestock are tourists, and Rothenburg is well on its way to becoming a medieval theme park.

But Rothenburg is still Germany's best-preserved walled town. Countless travelers have searched for the elusive "untouristy Rothenburg." There are many contenders (such as Michelstadt, Miltenberg, Bamberg, Bad Windsheim and Dinkelsbuehl), but none holds a candle to the king of medieval German cuteness. Even with crowds, overpriced souvenirs and a nearly inedible pastry specialty (the over-promoted, fried ball of pie crust called a Schneeball), Rothenburg is still the best. Save time and mileage and be satisfied with the winner.

By the way, there are several "Rothenburgs" in Germany. Make sure you plan for Rothenburg ob der Tauber (on the Tauber River); people really do sometimes drive or ride the train to other, non-descript Rothenburgs by accident.

In the Middle Ages, when Berlin and Moscow were just side spots in the road, Rothenburg was Germany's second-largest city, with a whopping population of 6,000. Today, it's the country's most exciting medieval town, enjoying tremendous popularity with tourists without losing its charm. There's a thousand years of history packed between its cobbles.

To do the best of the day-trippers, it's all to spend the night. While 2.5 million people visit each year, a mere 500,000 book into a hotel room. Rothenburg is mine after dark.

A walking tour helps bring the ramparts alive. For the serious side of Rothenburg's history, you can take the

tour offered by the town's tourist office. But for a thoroughly fun hour of medieval wonderment, take the Night Watchman's Tour. The watchman jokes like a medieval John Cleese as he stokes his lamp and takes tourists on his rounds, all the while telling slice-of-gritty-life tales.



Rick Steves

Well before the sun sets, climb the Town Hall tower to enjoy the best view of the town and surrounding countryside. For more views, walk the wall that surrounds the old town. This 1.5-mile stroll atop the wall is at its most medieval before breakfast or at sunset, when a rich, warm light bathes the half-timbered houses.

Rothenburg's Medieval Crime and Punishment Museum, all explained in English, is full of diabolical instruments of punishment and torture.

St. Jakob's Church contains the one must-see art treasure in Rothenburg: a glorious 500-year-old altarpiece by Tilman Riemenschneider, the Michelangelo of German woodcarvers. For a closer view of this realistic commotion of Bible scenes, climb the stairs behind the organ. It's Germany's greatest piece of wood-carving.

Warning: Rothenburg is one of Germany's best shopping towns. Do it here, mail it home, and be done with it. Lovely prints, carvings, wine glasses, Christmas-tree ornaments and beer steins are popular.

One of the ornament shops has an excellent little German Christmas Museum upstairs. Its unique collection is much more than a play to get you to spend more money. You'll take a look at tree decorations through the ages, Christmas-tree



Rick Steves

**Rothenburg, Germany's town fountain is flanked by characteristic half-timbered buildings, once filled with grain and corn to enable inhabitants to survive any siege.**

stands, mini-trees sent in boxes to WWI soldiers at the front, early Advent calendars and old-time Christmas cards, all thoughtfully arranged and described.

To hear the birds and smell the cows, take a walk into the Tauber Valley. A trail leads downhill from Rothenburg's idyllic castle gardens to a cute, skinny, 600-year-old "castle-ette," the summer home of the town's mayor in the 15th century. While called a castle, the floor plan is more like a four-story tree house. It's intimately furnished and, if you can manage to arrange a visit, well worth a look.

From the mayor's getaway, the trail continues downstream along the trout-filled Tauber River to the sleepy village of Detwang. It is actually older than Rothen-

burg and has a church with another impressive Riemenschneider altarpiece. To see more of the rural countryside (old mills, apple trees, and chickens), rent a bike for a breezy half-day pedal around the river valley.

In the night, I'm happy to find myself alone with Rothenburg. The winds of history polish half-timbered gables and blow through the grooves of centuries of horse carts. Sitting in a mossy niche in the town wall, I finger the medieval stonework. Even now, it feels good to be within these protective walls, where modern-day travelers meet medieval wayfarers.

Rick Steves (ricksteves.com) writes European travel guidebooks and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. Email him at rick@ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.

## TOP TRAVEL PICKS

## La Merce in Barcelona

Since 1871, Barcelona's residents have been bidding farewell to the hot summer and ushering in the cooler autumn season with a festival honoring one of the city's two patron saints, the Mare de Deu de la Merce. The celebration referred to simply as La Merce has since evolved into one of the highlights on Barcelona's annual festival calendar. The five-day street party filled with sound, color and participatory fun takes place Sept. 20-24. Much of the action takes place in and around the Placa de Sant Jaume.

On a program packed with hundreds of acts, several stand out. The Correfoc, or Fire Run, is a typically Catalan spectacle in which members of community groups dressed as devils dart and dance to the beating of drums, twirling spark-emitting firecrackers as they go. Fire-breathing dragons add more fiery drama to the scene. Two runs take place Sept. 21, the tamer children's edition at 6:30 p.m., and the adult's version at 8:30 p.m., on the Via Laietana.

The term Castellers refers to the builders of multi-level human towers. A melody played on the drum and the dance of the various stages of its construc-



Karen Bradbury

Read more about things to do in the Europe Traveler blog: [stripes.com/blogs/europe-traveler](http://stripes.com/blogs/europe-traveler)



tion, from the ring that bears the weight of the load to the trunk that gives the structure its height, and finally the child who ascends to the top of the structure and salutes the crowd. The Castellers can be seen in action from noon on Sept. 22.

Other program highlights include the Gigantes, or Giants parade, in which effigies of kings, queens and nobles take elaborate steps as they interact with one another and perform for the spectators. On all festival evenings, a light show is projected onto the facade of the Town Hall. Concerts, street theater, dance and sporting events round out the program. Online: barcelona.cat/lamerce/en

## Microbrewery festival in Pilsen

The beautiful Czech city of Pilsen, regarded as the birthplace of the world's most popular style of beer in 1842, is a fitting spot to host Sun in a Glass, a festival celebrating the ingenuity of today's generation of brewers.

On Sept. 21, lovers of not just pilseners but all styles of beer can sample the fruits of labor of some 70 microbreweries, most of which are based in the Czech Republic. Tours of the city's brewery and beer spa facilities are also offered, bands play and competitions showcasing beer-related skills are held. Activities take place across two venues from 1 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Entry to the event known in Czech as "Slunce v Skle" is free. Online: [sluncevskle.cz/program](http://sluncevskle.cz/program)

## Street artists in Garmisch-Partenkirchen

Dozens of street artists from around the world bring their unique brands of entertainment to Garmisch-Partenkirchen this weekend as part of the resort town's annual spectacle titled "Strassen-Kunst.Festival."

Jugglers, acrobats, singers and other artists entertain all-ages crowds across four separate



strassenkunstfestival.de

**You never know what you'll see during the annual entertainment spectacle known as Strassen.Kunst.Festival in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.**

zones of the Ludwigstrasse in Partenkirchen. A special zone is set aside for children. The festival takes place no matter the weather, although some acts might move indoors in the event of rain. Performances take place from 5 p.m.-9 p.m. Sept. 20, noon-9 p.m. Sept. 21 and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sept. 22. Entry is free, but the performers depend on what's thrown in their hats, so tip accordingly. Online: [strassenkunstfestival.de](http://strassenkunstfestival.de)

## International Motor Show in Frankfurt

In odd-numbered years, passenger cars are in the spotlight at the International Motor Show in Frankfurt. The event also known as the International Automobile Exhibition runs through Sept. 22 at Messe Frankfurt trade fair grounds.

The slogan "Driving Tomorrow" refers to the new concepts, modern technology and alternative driving systems expected to characterize mobility of the future. Trade fair areas include the Experience section, in which visitors can take test drives of certain models (advance registration is necessary); an open-air circuit for E-bikes; and an off-road zone for SUVs. The most popular area of the fair is the Exhibition section, in which passenger cars from off-road vehicles and super sports cars are on display. Manufacturers such as Audi, BMW, Opel, Porsche, Volkswagen and others will premiere their latest models.

Fair hours are 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sept. 20 and 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Sept. 21-22. Single-day tickets bought at the gate go for 17 euros for adults and 8.50 euros for youth ages 7-16. Ages 6 and under enter free. A family ticket costs 35 euros. [iaa.de/en/cars](http://iaa.de/en/cars)



## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

## Europe



Cellini Ristorante & Pizzeria, in Sacile, Pordenone, Italy, has an elegant interior and outside seating that overlooks the Livenza river.



The diavola pizza is made with spicy salami, mozzarella cheese and light tomato sauce. Cellini offers a large variety of pizza combinations.



PHOTOS BY NORMAN LLAMAS/Stars and Stripes

Cellini Ristorante & Pizzeria has an extensive wine selection, in addition to a full bar that stocks alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages. This particular wine pictured is a local variety.

# Capturing Italy's essence

Cellini, an unassuming eatery in the heart of Sacile, serves surprisingly fantastic dishes

NORMAN LLAMAS  
Stars and Stripes



It is no mystery that pasta and pizza are the staple foods of all great Italian restaurants. That's certainly the case around the Friuli-Venezia Giulia area, where the challenge is finding the one restaurant that does it best.

Luckily for those who live in Sacile or nearby, there's Cellini Ristorante and Pizzeria, located in the center of town. Cellini is a very unassuming place, and if you're not already planning to dine there, you might miss it. However, make sure you don't, because the food is amazing and the atmosphere is just as good.

Once inside, the place unexpectedly opens up into a beautifully well-put-together interior. The dining room is much bigger than it looks from the outside, and there's additional seating outside overlooking the Livenza river.

Children are welcome, but the atmosphere lends itself to a more romantic, quiet and elegant setting; one that you might want to enjoy with just your significant other, especially on a late evening.

The menu is not very different than what you'll find at other restaurants in Italy. It isn't very big, but the items offered are exquisite and satisfying.

For appetizers, they've got the usual: cold cut meats, cheese varieties with or without melon, caprese salad, grilled scallops, etc. Pasta dishes are first courses. The heartier meals are offered as second courses and here, they offer meats prepared in a variety of ways that will not disappoint.

The cheese and sliced meats dish we ordered as an appetizer was delicious. Our main course was the Trentino Dish, which comes with two pan fried sausages, a variety of delicious mushrooms, pan fried polenta and pan fried robiolacci cheese.

If there's something on the menu that comes in many varieties, it's pizza. I ordered the diavola because it's my favorite. However, this one was better than any I have previously had. The diavola pizza is made with spicy salami, mozzarella cheese and light tomato sauce.

## CELLINI RISTORANTE & PIZZERIA

Address: Via Pietà 20, Sacile (PN), Italy  
Hours: Tuesday-Sunday: 12 p.m.-3 p.m and 6 p.m.-11 p.m.

**Food:** Classic Italian pasta dishes, meat and seafood dishes; pizza; salads; kids' menu  
**Drinks:** Full bar with alcoholic beverages; large variety of wines, many local to the area; the usual selection of fountain drinks, juice and coffee

**Prices:** About 7 to 12 euros (\$8-\$13) for most appetizers and 10 to 20 euros (\$11-\$22) for most main-course dishes

**Dress:** Casual

**Menu:** Italian and English

**Reservations:** Phone: 0434 72868; Email: [Ristorantecellinisacile@gmail.com](mailto:Ristorantecellinisacile@gmail.com)

— Norman Llamas

The restaurant also offers a large variety of wines. We had a local one, the Gelisi Antonio cabernet franc, which paired well with our dishes.

Many other alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages are also available. Coffee and a variety of desserts are also on the menu.

Prices are very affordable for the quality of food served. Our dinner came to under 60 euros, which is around 15 to 20 euros less than what we typically spend at other restaurants for a similar dinner.

The staff is very friendly, professional and most of them speak enough English to accommodate non-Italian speakers. The staff will also provide some assistance with the menu, if you're having difficulty deciding which dish to order.

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## From common to cool: Lowly cabbage star

By KATIE WORKMAN  
Associated Press

Here's a sentence that might come as a surprise: Cabbage is cool.

That taken-for-granted vegetable, that sturdy, dense staple of many a poor, ancestral homeland, is finally getting respect.

"It's all about how it is prepared, how it's elevated," says Paul Kahan, a James Beard award-winning chef in Chicago and self-professed cabbage freak.

He thinks that because cabbage has mainly been associated with sustenance, it hasn't been given its due.

Cabbage is part of most of the world's cooking history. Perhaps most famously, it was one of the only sources of sustenance in famine-ravaged Ireland in the mid-19th century. Thus the classic Irish dish corned beef and cabbage, not to mention colcannon.

In China, there's cabbage sautéed with bean curd. In England, cabbage cooked with potatoes and other vegetables in bubble and squeak. In Norway, the hot and sour surkål. In the U.S., coleslaw. Fermented and pickled cabbage dishes abound, including kimchi in Korea, and sauerkraut in Poland, Germany and other parts of middle and Eastern Europe. Stuffed cabbage rolls are part of just about every cuisine, from golabki in Poland to holishikes in Jewish cooking to sarma in Croatia.

At all times and places, cabbage has been valued for its plenteousness, cheapness, long shelf life, and ability to be preserved for an even longer shelf life. It can be eaten raw or cooked in pretty much any way a vegetable can be cooked.

Now, it's also trendy. "It's just delicious," says Kahan.

He has been on the cabbage bandwagon for years, serving it at his upscale Chicago restaurants in various guises. A Ukrainian, he clarifies wedges of cabbage in a wood-burning hearth and then finishes them in a pan with butter and shallots. Kahan remembers being inspired by a dish made by New Orleans chef Alon Shaya: "It was the first time I ever saw a chunk of cabbage served as a restaurant."

And that's how kitchen trends start — chefs get inspired, borrowing from other restaurants and other cultures; food publications take their cues from the chefs; and suddenly, cabbage recipes proliferate.

Robert Schueller, the "Produce Guru" at Melissa's Produce, a specialty company out of Los Angeles, says chefs and restaurants are the clear drivers behind the cabbage movement. Cabbage is being used as everything from a taco



KATIE WORKMAN/AP

Cod and edamame take cabbages to a new level in this dish. Chefs like how cabbage maintains a crisp texture when served with warm foods.

topping (common in Mexico) to a base or base for menu items such as marinated fish. Chefs like how cabbage maintains a crispier texture than other greens when served with warm foods, he says.

"We have seen a rise in Napa cabbage, too, which is used in Asian stir fries, fermentation and pickling, all of which are gaining in popularity. The most interesting thing is that the rise of Napa is not just in Asian groceries and restaurants," Schueller says.

Gabriel Kreuther gets creative with cabbage at his eponymous restaurant in New York City. He purées well-cooked cabbage as a base for some garnishes; is it in a side dish with trumpet mushrooms warmed in duck fat; and serves up a simple slaw of shredded cabbage, onion, oil, vinegar, and salt and pepper, maybe with some julienned gruyere cheese mixed in.

"It goes with everything; it's refreshing, it gets better with a few days macerating time, it's soft and crunchy; it's healthy," Kreuther says.

At the restaurant, they make their own sauerkraut, a dish he grew up with in his native Alsace region of France. Kreuther serves the sauerkraut in a smoked sturgeon; his sauerkraut tartlet topped with caviar mouseline is in a filo pastry shell and served under a wine glass filled with smoke.

Kreuther likes mixing poor man's food with luxury ingredients and seeing how they play against each other. That explains another dish on his menu: layers of squash breast and foie gras wrapped with cabbage leaves, and then encased in Tunisian bread dough and seared until crispy.

And how do people react when they see cabbage on this highbrow menu?

"People pooh-poooh cabbage," he says, "but when they taste it well prepared they say, 'Oh, I didn't realize cabbage could be so delicious!'"

## WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

## Europe



PHOTOS BY NANCY MONTGOMERY/Stars and Stripes

The Grottoes of Catullus in Sirmione, Italy, had a thermal bath system, service passageways, elegant public rooms and large terraces at a time when most people lived in huts.

By NANCY MONTGOMERY  
Stars and Stripes

On a June trip to Sirmione, the charming town on Lake Garda, I did what many tourists do and visited the Grottoes of Catullus.

There aren't any grottoes there, nor was Catullus, the classical Roman poet in love with Lesbia, in attendance.

Still, it was hot during the visit, nearly 95 degrees. Arguably too hot to tour what are the remains of the largest Roman villa in northern Italy.

The archaeological site and museum is open all year. However, viewing what remains of the ancient mansion, along with its cypress trees, olive groves and panoramic lake in the autumnal light might be ideal.

The capacious ruins are thought today to be from a grand home built between the end of the 1st century B.C. and 1st century A.D. for some 1 percenters from Verona.

Now it costs just 8 euros (about \$8.80) for visitors to wander among the ruins of the villa, some 550 feet long and 350 feet wide, and its nearly 5-acre site. To the uninitiated, it might look like a lot of rocks and arches. But signs in three languages explain how the multi-story villa was constructed and what individual rooms were used for. Drawings show how it might have looked in all its splendor.

A small museum at the entrance traces the history of the area, from the formation of northern Italy's lakes through glacial melt, to the earliest settlements and Sirmione's place on the trade route connecting Rome with the Alps and beyond. It also has a collection of tools, pottery shards, buttons and coins from past settlements, and parts of surviving mosaics found in the area.

The ruins retain their name for understandable reasons. When they were first discovered and before they were excavated, they looked like caves. And Catullus did have a nice house in the area — he wrote about it in his poems — but at an even earlier time.

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## ON THE QT

## TIMES

8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday through Monday. Closed Tuesdays. Closes at 2 p.m. on Italian holidays. Winter hours 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## COSTS

Adults: 8 euros; 18 and under: free

## FOOD

Sirmione is full of cafes, restaurants and gelato stands.

## INFORMATION

Online: [grottedicattullo.beniculturali.it/index.php?en/1/grotte-di-cattullo-home](http://grottedicattullo.beniculturali.it/index.php?en/1/grotte-di-cattullo-home)

— Nancy Montgomery



The "grand pilone" or big pylon among the Grottoes of Catullus, above, is one of the foundational elements of the villa built for wealthy Veronans beginning at the end of the 1st century B.C. The archaeological site, also seen below, is located at the tip of Sirmione peninsula.

## Remains to be seen

Tour impressive ruins of ancient Roman villa perched above Lake Garda



# How to travel more during school year

One of the best tips you'll ever find for affordable travel to exotic destinations is to have a flexible schedule. You'll find cheaper flights and hotels during shoulder seasons, plus you won't have to face the crowds and long lines.

Unfortunately, if your children are in school, you don't necessarily have that kind of flexibility. The older the kids get, the harder it is to take them away for extended periods without facing major consequences.

However, I see how valuable and educational travel can be when I watch my kids learn about the world around them. Because of this, we've learned to make travel a priority in whatever way we can. Here are my best tips for finding time to travel even when your family has to stick to a school schedule.

## The weekend getaway

Sometimes when you're traveling with kids, less is more. Weekend getaways are short and sweet so everyone leaves feeling refreshed. It's a break from your normal routine and a chance to make wonderful family memories without breaking the bank or missing school.

Explore nearby cities, visit friends or just simply spend a weekend in a hotel swimming and relaxing. You can leave on a Friday after school ends and be back by Sunday afternoon in time to throw in a load of laundry.

## The kids miss school

Sometimes the best solution is to take the kids out of school for a week or so. As a former teacher and current teacher's wife, I know that this can be a pain for the teacher to deal with. It involves extra preparation, printing worksheets ahead of time and just generally more administrative work.

Know your child, and be honest about whether missing school is worth it for them. If your child has no problem keeping up with the work or learning on their own, this may be a good fit for your family.

My best advice would be that if you're going to take your kids out of school, give your teacher plenty of advance notice and make your trip somewhat educational.

## Not everyone goes

Arrange an individual trip with one of your kids for some quality time together. If you're lucky enough to have grand parents nearby, see if they will watch the kids while you and your significant other sneak off for an adults-only vacation during the school year.

## Plan ahead

Once the school schedule and activity schedules come out, comb through your calendar and find open weekends or holidays.

Compare the time available with a list of destinations you'd like to visit and decide which are going to be most practical and affordable during that time.

— Emily Krause/TravelPulse

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## WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

## Pacific



The iconic O-torii just off the coast of Miyajima, Japan, appears to be floating when the tide is high.

JAMES BOLINGER/Stars and Stripes

# Picture perfect

Not even restoration work can detract from the beauty of Japan's 'Island of the Gods'

By JAMES BOLINGER  
Stars and Stripes

The floating O-torii and Itsukushima Shrine at Miyajima south of Hiroshima are two of Japan's most popular attractions, but ongoing restoration work there shouldn't stop Americans stationed in Japan from planning a visit.

Miyajima, or the "Island of the Gods," is one of the three most scenic places in Japan, according to the island's official tourist website, and a prime destination for an easy day trip or weekend getaway for those at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.

It's especially popular for professional and amateur photographers who make their way around the picturesque landscape.

The most popular photo subject is the O-torii, which appears to float gently on the waves when the tide is high. The bright orange structure, which stands nearly 60 feet tall in stark contrast to the dark green, forested hillsides behind it, was built in 1875 and is the eighth O-torii at Miyajima. The first was built in 1168.

Other photo ops include Itsukushima Shrine, a UNESCO World Heritage site, with its brilliant orange pillars and wooden walkways. There's also the five-story Tahoto Pagoda, which pokes above the cherry trees, and the many scenic orange footbridges in Momijidani Park that cross a small river. They're perfect for family photos.

If you time your trip right, you can catch the leaves on the Japanese maples changing color, or the cherry blossoms that blanket the entire town in pink and white flowers.

A long tramway makes its way through a primeval forest to the peak of Mount Misen, which many

tourists with physical fortitude choose to hike. From the top of Misen one can see the islands of the Seto Inland Sea.

The kids will enjoy the wild deer that inhabit the island. They walk the streets and are friendly enough to pet.

My most recent adventure included a visit to the Miyajima Brewery to sample the three varieties of Miyajima beer. My favorite was the red ale, which was strong but not overly hoppy. Best of all, the brewery let me take the cup with me, and I sat on the beach with my feet in the water enjoying the peaceful sound of the surf striking the sand.

The most popular dish on the island is grilled oysters, and they are served at a variety of stands on the oceanside road. They are as big as an adult's hand, and from my understanding are quite tasty. I'm not an oyster guy, so I did not partake, but those who did seemed pleased.

Miyajima is halfway between Iwakuni and Hiroshima and is best accessed by train. After arriving at Miyajima Guchi station, take a short walk following the signs to the ferry. A roundtrip ferry ticket costs 360 yen.

Visitors will want to bring plenty of yen for food and shopping. I started my day with 5,000 yen (about \$45) and was running on empty after dinner, dessert and a few beers.

It's possible to see most of the sights on Miyajima in a day if one takes the tramway to the top of Misen and starts early.

However, to see the entire island and get the best lighting for your photos, I recommend more than one trip, especially if you want to hike to the mountaintop. The photo opportunities also change throughout the year.

bolinger.james@stripes.com  
Twitter: @bolingerj2004



The entrance to Itsukushima Shrine at Miyajima, Japan, is a photographer's dream with orange pillars and wooden walkways.

## ON THE QT

### DIRECTIONS

From Iwakuni Station, take the local train toward Hiroshima and get off at Miyajima Guchi Station. Follow the crowd through a tunnel under the road to the ferries.

### TIMES

The first ferry leaves for the island at 6:25 a.m. and the last ferry leaves at 10:14 p.m.

### COSTS

The round trip on the train is 640 yen and a round trip on the ferry is 360 yen.

### FOOD

The island is populated with many restaurants and stands that serve a variety of Japanese foods.



The five-story Tahoto Pagoda pokes above the cherry trees.

### INFORMATION

Online: visit-miyajima-japan.com

— James Bolinger

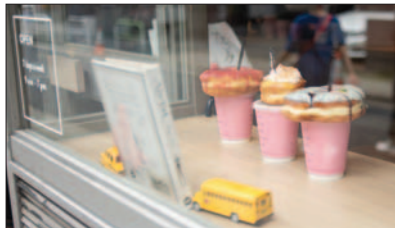
## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

## Pacific



PHOTOS BY AARON KIDD/Stars and Stripes

Dumbo Doughnuts and Coffee, in Tokyo and Yokohama, boasts a revolving roster of quirky flavors.



Many Dumbo Doughnuts and Coffee customers like to post photos to social media of their treats atop their coffee cups.



Dumbo Doughnuts and Coffee opened in 2016, calling itself a specialty cafe where folks can enjoy New York-style artisanal doughnuts with coffee from a unique espresso machine.

## Too good to dunk

Dumbo Doughnuts in Tokyo an unmissable treat

By AARON KIDD  
Stars and Stripes

I've become an absolute fiend for a bright-pink, sweet-and-sour doughnut baked by a tiny backstreet shop in Tokyo's Azabujuban district.

The Framboise from Dumbo Doughnuts and Coffee is so good, I'm willing to put up with the sometimes-rude, disinterested college kids working the counter. It's so good, I'm OK with strangers staring as I slather my face in raspberry glaze while working my way through this massive, messy confection.

Dumbo opened in 2016, calling itself a specialty cafe where folks can enjoy New York-style artisanal doughnuts with coffee brewed from a one-of-a-kind espresso machine. A second location popped up later in Yokohama.

I'm unclear on what makes Dumbo's doughnuts so "New York," but the shop's website says they're handmade with a secret dough that makes them crispy on the outside and soft and fluffy in the middle. They're too pretty to dunk in your coffee. Customers have been known to balance them atop the shop's pink paper cups for photo ops.

Dumbo boasts an intriguing, revolving roster of quirky flavors that include Passion Fruit (380 yen, or about \$3.60), Matcha Cream Cheese (380 yen) and Salted Chocolate Caramel (350 yen).

I can't explain what any of these taste like, because I'm a devotee of the Framboise (350 yen), which is as pleasing to the



eyes as it is the taste buds.

Its electric-pink glaze topped with a cute coupling of raspberries isn't overly sweet, and just a hint of tanginess rises to the surface of each chewy bite. As advertised, it's crispy on the outside and pillowy in the middle. Highly recommended.

My picky eater of an 8-year-old always goes against that advice and chooses the classic-looking 320-yen Cinnamon Sugar, which is about as big as his face. Somehow, he manages to devour the whole thing.

My colleagues have given high praise to the Plain Glazed (350 yen) and Marshmallow Chocolate (380 yen), the latter of which is reminiscent of a nice cup of cocoa. Another who tried the Cinnamon Sugar wasn't as impressed. She said it was too dense and chewy for her liking.

As for Dumbo's coffee, I'm not sure what makes the espresso machine so unique, but the shop says it uses beans from Arabica Kyoto.

Other than the small size, I have no complaints about my usual order: a large iced cafe latte for 450 yen. I appreciate its creaminess and deep flavor, but a colleague thought hers was way too milky.

## DUMBO DOUGHNUTS AND COFFEE

**Location:** 2-17-6 Azabujuban, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0045**Directions:** A short walk from Azabujuban Station's Exit 1. About a 5-minute taxi ride from the New Sanno Hotel. GPS coordinates are 35.635957, 139.738837.**Hours:** Open daily, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.**Prices:** All doughnuts cost less than 400 yen. Beverages, available in regular and large sizes, are 500 yen or less.**Dress:** Casual**Information:** Online: dumbodc.com (English and Japanese); Instagram: dumbodc

— Aaron Kidd

Other coffees, which are available in regular and large sizes, include blend coffee, cafe au lait, cappuccino, espresso, cafe mocha and matcha latte.

If jitter juice isn't your thing, there's blood orange juice, blue grapefruit juice, lemonade, tea, milk and milk cocoa. Nothing on the beverage menu costs more than 500 yen.

The shop itself is pleasant looking, but with just eight counter seats is often uncomfortably crowded. Two seats are sometimes blocked by ceiling-high stacks of pastel pink pastry boxes.

If you're not lucky enough to squeeze in at Dumbo's counter, there's a small park just steps away offering plenty of benches, playground equipment and restrooms.

Dumbo's biggest downside is its hours. The shop doesn't open until 9 a.m., forcing many morning commuters to grab their caffeine or sugar fix somewhere else.

kidd.aaron@stripes.com  
Twitter: @kiddaaron

The Marshmallow Chocolate doughnut tastes a lot like a cup of cocoa.



The eye-pleasing Framboise is Dumbo Doughnuts' top-selling confection.



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## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Pacific

## OLYMPIC-SIZE OPTIONS

## How to choose the right place to stay for the Tokyo Games

By NATALIE B. COMPTON  
*The Washington Post*

**W**ith less than a year to go before Tokyo hosts the 2020 Summer Olympics, it's time to book your accommodations immediately if you're planning on attending. Even though Tokyo can hold a lot of people (the greater Tokyo area is ranked the

most populous metropolitan area on the planet), it's going to be a battle for the Olympics travelers to find a place to stay during the games thanks to a 14,000-room shortage.

Hotels are already filling up — or blocking out dates to host Olympics personnel — around the games' July 24 through Aug. 9, 2020, window. Prices for what's left are quadrup-

ling. Even if you're still trying to get your hands on tickets, you'll want to figure out your sleeping arrangement as soon as possible.

But what kind of place should you book? Tokyo offers an array of interesting, luxurious and sometimes confusing accommodations for travelers to experience. To decide what's best for you, here's a breakdown of options.

## Airbnb

Staying in a Tokyo Airbnb or apartment rental, or minpaku, gives you the chance to pretend to be a local while you're in town. They vary wildly by price point and personality of the rental's host. This option can give you the chance to dive deep into a neighborhood without many, or any, hotels.

If you're staying in town a while, book an Airbnb with a washing machine so you can do your laundry seamlessly. Make sure you have access to the internet when you're going to your Airbnb for the first time, as directions to Tokyo homes can be incredibly intricate, requiring heavy use of Google Maps and online help from your host.

## Capsule hotel

A capsule hotel offers guests a cubby-like space that usually has just enough room for a twin bed. While ones in Tokyo can normally be as cheap as \$20 a night, they're more likely to be around \$150 a night during the Olympics thanks to the rise in demand.

Keep in mind that these accommodations aren't for everyone. Many require you to climb up into a bunk, or into tricky, narrow spaces, making it difficult or potentially impossible for people with disabilities to access beds.

Capsule hotels aren't for travelers who want a lot of peace and quiet, or privacy, either. You're close to others who come and go from their nooks through

the night, zipping and unzipping bags while you're trying to get rest. If you're a light sleeper looking a night at a capsule hotel, make sure you pack earplugs.

## Hostel

Hostels and capsule hotels are very similar. In the latter, you may have some more privacy with your entire bunk being enclosed. At a hostel, you're more likely to be stuck in a dorm-style bunk bed. You'll want to pack an eye mask and earplugs to get the best sleep at a hostel. Prices for a bunk bed in a dorm room are skyrocketing as well, but this might be your cheapest bet for accommodations.

## Hotel

If you have the budget to stay in a hotel, this is going to be your most comfortable accommodation option in Tokyo. Depending on the price point of the hotel, you'll have access to amenities like a hotel gym, breakfast or pool (which may be particularly enticing during the Summer Olympics when Tokyo will be sweltering). The only downside might be their astronomical Olympics rates. For those who want to stay near the action near the New National Stadium, look for hotels near Shinjuku (like the Hotel Rose Garden), Shibuya (Mustard Hotel Shibuya) and Chiyoda (Sakura Cross Hotel Akihabara).

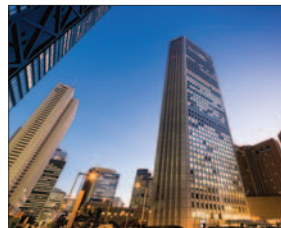
## Cruise ships

To combat Tokyo's room shortage problem on land, temporarily docked cruise ships are being made available to Olympics travelers. This won't be the first time for such a practice, as cruise ships were used as hotels during previous Olympics and even other big sports events like the Super Bowl. The travel company JTB has sold packages to travel agents that will host travelers on the Sun Princess cruise liner.

A perk of this option is that guests can have all of the amenities and social activities of a cruise experience, while having easy access to Tokyo at the same time.

## Love hotel

Love hotels, or rabuho, were built for couples who needed privacy. You can book them for "rest" and for "stay." Rest means you'll get a couple hours, while stay gets you an overnight. Despite their sexual connotations, love hotels that are available for online booking are already filling up, even though they're traditionally accessed on a drop-in basis. Though not reliable, this might be your best bet for a last-minute option when you get to town.



## Out-of-town options

With Tokyo's incredible train system, you might want to consider staying somewhere farther out of town and coming in for events and sightseeing. Heading out of Tokyo can give you the chance to stay in traditional inns, known as ryokan, or unique temple stays, known as shukubo. Getting outside of the city will afford you the opportunity to see Japan's natural beauty, from its stunning mountains to seafood-rich coastlines. Consider buying a Japan Rail Pass before your trip for discounted rates on train travel to give you access to more of the country.

Remember: No matter what type of accommodation you prefer, it's best to book now before it's too late to find a place at all. At the time of publication, more than 90% of Booking.com's rooms were already reserved for the duration of the games.



(iStock photos)

Clockwise from top: A city view of Tokyo with Mount Fuji at sunset. A view of Shinjuku, Tokyo. A capsule hotel in Asakusa, Tokyo, Japan.



## WEEKEND: LIFESTYLE



NICOLE NERI, MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/TNS

Tassie Yang, who started watching mukbang videos after her personal trainer suggested she try a no-carbohydrate diet, began filming her own.

# Eating for thousands

## Mukbang video craze spreads from Korea to Midwest and beyond

BY PRECIOUS FONDREN  
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

**A** couple of nights each week, after her corporate 9-to-5 day ends, Tassie Yang does something very few Minnesotans do: She records herself consuming large amounts of food.

With a chatty, casual, girl-next-door appeal, she talks to the camera about the meal she's prepared or purchased, then slurps and smacks her way through, say, 20 oversized oysters (which she prepared in two styles) or 3 pounds of seafood (King crab legs and tiger shrimp). She then posts the videos on her YouTube channel, Tassie Eats.

It's just one of one of hundreds of channels on YouTube dedicated to mukbang.

A mash-up of two Korean words that roughly translate to "live eating," mukbang started about 10 years ago in South Korea. As odd as it sounds, it's found a following across the United States.

Some fans say they find the videos entertaining, while others maintain that they help curb cravings. And there's a contingent that plays the videos while they are eating or finds the sounds of others eating to be soothing.

"I used to think it was so ridiculous," said Yang, who lives in Minneapolis. "Who would watch someone else eat?"

Yang started watching mukbang videos after her personal trainer suggested she try a no-carbohydrate diet.

"Just seeing them eat fatty foods that I couldn't eat, it made me feel better," she said.

It wasn't long before she began filming her own videos.

"It was a crazy idea and I just ran with it," she said.

In just over two years, Yang has surprised herself by garnering more than 19,000 subscribers and 3

million channel views, making her one of the leading mukbangers in the state.

Yang isn't the only Minnesotan to engage in the mukbang craze.

Lindsay Greene of "The Hunger Diaries" started creating mukbang videos after she saw the millions of views those channels were getting.

**'I used to think it was so ridiculous. Who would watch someone else eat?'**

Tassie Yang  
Mukbang video maker  
in Minnesota

Now Greene, who posts two videos a week, has more than 50,000 subscribers to her channel.

Much like Yang, Greene said she initially found eating while recording oneself weird, but fascinating.

"It's one of those things that you're like 'What is this? It's so weird? Why am I watching this?' But I also could not stop watching it," she said.

Early on, she admitted she was hesitant to let anyone know what she was watching.

"My fiancé would come home and I would shut my computer because I'm like 'What the hell is he going to think about me watching this?'"

To her surprise, her fiancé was supportive of her habit. And Greene began uploading her own videos.

While some mukbangers claim they make enough money to quit their jobs, Yang and Greene say they have only attracted a few sponsorships from restaurants they've reviewed or YouTube advertisers.

Still, Greene is hopeful. "I'm able to monetize my videos on YouTube," she said. "That's not lucrative

yet, but it can be in the future."

Of course, the trend has many critics (including the South Korean government) who say the craze promotes overeating and can lead people to develop an unhealthy relationship with food.

Yang and Greene said they understand the concern, and that they try to stay in tune with their bodies and not overindulge off screen.

Yang recalled a time when she was collaborating with another mukbanger on video. The mukbanger wanted to record them eating one of every item from the White Castle menu — on top of the crab meal the two initially agreed on eating.

"I almost threw up on camera," Yang said. "From then on, I only filmed when I was hungry."

For her part, Greene said she's no longer gorging online.

When she first started recording, she thought she had to eat enormous quantities to be successful, but she discovered that her videos remained popular even when she ate more moderately.

"I had to get people to see that I'm not a competitive eater," she said. "I'm really at the mercy of what my body is capable of consuming."

And both Yang and Greene said they've been surprised and touched by comments from their growing number of fans.

"I've had a lot of people with eating disorders message me and say that it helped them have an appetite and made them want to eat something," Greene said.

They've also received messages from viewers with dietary restrictions or allergies who say their videos allowed them to vicariously enjoy food they can't eat.

"I got a comment from a mom that said her child in the hospital only eats when they see me eat," Yang said. "I never expected to have that kind of impact. I just want it to be a positive place where we're just talking about food."

# WEEKEND: MOVIES



20TH CENTURY FOX/AF

In "Ad Astra," astronaut Roy McBride (Brad Pitt) travels to the outer edges of the solar system to find his missing father and unravel a mystery that threatens the survival of our planet.

BY ANN HORNADAY  
The Washington Post

In English, "Ad Astra" means "to the stars," but it's precisely the film's earthbound emotional truths that give it heft, meaning and grandeur. After Brad Pitt's mellow, deceptively simple supporting performance in "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" this far more subtle and technically challenging turn reminds viewers yet again that a movie star who started as a pretty face and morphed into a thoughtful and daring producer has been a superb actor all along.

In a mesmerizing, minimalist performance, Pitt forms the gravitational center of a film that takes its place in the firmament of science fiction films by fearlessly

quoting classics of the genre (as well as those outside it). The net effect is that "Ad Astra" feels both familiar and confidently of itself, all the more boldly affecting by being unafraid to acknowledge the forebears it explicitly invokes.

Fans of "First Man" will appreciate "Ad Astra's" rattling opening sequence, when Space Command major Roy McBride (Pitt) hurtles through near-space while building the world's largest antenna on Earth. Anyone familiar with Joseph Conrad's "Heart of Darkness" and Francis Ford Coppola's "Apocalypse Now" will recognize the artistic DNA of Roy's journey when he is assigned to travel to Neptune to retrieve a rogue astronaut (Tommy Lee Jones), who just happens to be his father. Admirers of such mournful

futuristic meditations as "Gravity," "Arrival" and "Solaris" will understand Roy's somber reflections on grief and loss as he encounters feelings he has successfully compartmentalized for most of his life.

And we haven't even mentioned "2001: A Space Odyssey" yet.

With so many references swirling around its atmosphere, "Ad Astra" skirts dangerously close to being derivative. But in the capable hands of writer-director James Gray, it becomes its own study, unflashy example of speculative filmmaking that is less interested in whiz-bang special effects and otherworldly creatures than in enduring philosophical questions about what we take with us — or heedlessly throw away — on the technological and existential journeys we call progress.

In the course of this handsome, classically structured hero's quest, Gray posits some playful ideas about the commercialization of space travel (the hot towels in first class will always be too small, apparently), as well as more cautionary notions regarding unfettered research, militarization and human nature that is just as feckless at the edge of the solar system as it is on the blue marble we call home.

Gray, who has said he set out to make the most realistic science fiction movie ever made, doesn't stint on cool stuff: "Ad Astra" is full of contoured space gear, cosmic rays, antimatier and secured communication lasers. There are several memorable sequences, both in terms of frightening action and the evolving aesthetics of human settlement through the years.

But having clearly consulted with experts as to what will be possible in space exploration in the near future, Gray wisely throws the whizbangery away, relegating them to the background of the movie's most spectacular special effect: its lead actor. As the icily competent, pathologically controlled McBride, Pitt delivers one of the finest performances of his career as a character whose self-imposed isolation bears more than a fleeting resemblance to the empyrean heights of his own celebrity. He communicates volumes simply through his eyes (you often can't see much more underneath the puffy white suit and amber-tinted helmet), and a narration that stands with Martin Sheen's in "Apocalypse Now" as an example of vocal performance at its most powerfully expressive.

There are moments in "Ad Astra" when nods to that movie — as well as the ghostly presence of "2001" — feel so obvious as to be distracting, when the solemn, contemplative tone teeters toward the lugubrious.

But Gray executes the story with such skillful elegance, and Pitt is so compelling, that the homages feel like organic parts of a continuum rather than direct lifts.

As if to announce the beginning of good-movie season, "Ad Astra" arrives as an original, well-made movie that's as substantive as it is entertaining, propelled by a star turn all the more impressive for being so restrained and deeply personal. It's a terrific ride, yes, but also a provocative meditation on masculinity, the things we choose to cherish or squander, and other eternal verities of life that swirl, unresolved, while our little blue marble continues to spin.

"Ad Astra" is rated PG-13 for some violence, bloody images and brief strong language. Running time: 122 minutes.

## Original space odyssey a giant leap for star, director

BY LINDSEY BAHR  
Associated Press

Brad Pitt made the first move with James Gray. In 1995, he saw Gray's debut "Little Odessa" and decided to call up the young filmmaker behind the grim Brooklyn crime drama. They've been talking ever since — about films, life and working together. But it would take almost 25 years for the stars to finally align, fittingly, for an ambitious, original space odyssey called "Ad Astra" that opens in theaters this weekend.

"It's a gutsy film," Pitt said. The 55-year-old both produced and stars in the story about an astronaut who ventures almost entirely alone into the outer reaches of space to investigate a disturbance that may be tied to his missing father. It's something Gray had been working on for years.

Pitt's choice of the word "gutsy" is appropriate, not just as a description of the film and its exploration of big themes like masculinity with the grand canvas of space as its backdrop, but in talking about the fact that it exists at all. Not many studios and production companies are handing over \$80 million for original ideas anymore. That Pitt's Plan B, New Regency and 20th Century Fox banded together to make "Ad Astra" happen is, Gray said, "Beyond rare ... It's a big risk."

The business has changed so much that Gray doubts that "Ad Astra" would even be made today. But three years ago, the two decided to take a leap on this big idea to make an epic set in the near future that Gray likes to call "science-fiction-fact." Gray was fascinated by the type of personality that's required for space travel and that Neil Armstrong, upon returning to Earth from the Apollo 11 mission, talked only

about the logistics and facts — nothing metaphysical or contemplative.

Pitt said he was drawn to the idea of the "dark night of the soul. When one is really forced to address their self and the things we carry and most likely bury, congenial griefs, regrets, those personal pains and to come out the other side, hopefully, embracing those is the way to becoming whole."

And his performance is a standout that critics have taken note of, on top of his acclaimed work this summer in Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood."

"He is a fabulous actor," Gray said. "And there aren't that many fabulous actors with much charisma in the world."

Pitt says he's happy to keep working. "I so believe in being creative and want to be creative till it's all said and done, until someone pulls the plug on me," Pitt said.



BRENT N. CLARKE, INVISION/AP

James Gray and Brad Pitt attend a screening of "Ad Astra" Sept. 16 in Washington.

## WEEKEND: MOVIES



FOCUS FEATURES/AP

Based on the television show of the same name, "Downton Abbey" continues the story of the Crawley family, wealthy owners of a large estate in the English countryside in the early 20th century.

# Lost in the British fog?

## A 'Downton Abbey' refresher course ahead of the film's release

By CHRIS HEWITT

Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

**B**reak out the clotted cream and the plus fours. "Downton Abbey" is back.

More than three years after the last time Lady Mary snubbed Lady Edith in the TV series, which ran from 2011-16 on PBS' "Masterpiece" in the U.S., they're back to snipe again in what may be a series of "Downton Abbey" movies. Since it has been a while, you may have forgotten where to put the cheese knife in a place setting and who's doing what to whom in the servants' quarters. We have you covered.

### Who's in?

Fans of the TV soap opera about life in a Yorkshire manor from 1912-26 have one big question about the movie: Is Maggie Smith's Dowager Countess of Grantham in it a lot? And the answer is: Yes.

The two-time Oscar winner has been vocal about her reluctance to return to a character she hinted she's a little tired of playing. The countess, whose infrequent use of name is Violet, addresses the doubts and difficulties of being 85 in the film's lovely final scenes, but she remains as vigorous and as full of brittle remarks as ever. ("Machiavelli is frequently underrated. He had many qualities.")

Barrow, the petulant gym servant who's often on the outs with co-workers, also is heavily featured, even though he departs Downton in a snit when he discovers he won't be in charge of preparing for the arrival of King George V and Queen Mary (the current queen's grandpa and grandma). His colleague, kitchen maid Daisy, also gets lots of screen time of both a personal and professional nature.

So does Lady Mary's personal maid, Anna, who's the key link between upstairs and downstairs. And Mrs. Hughes has plenty to do, starting with glaring at the royals' venomous staff. They have another thing coming if they believe the Downton workers will let them run the household for the duration of their stay. Upstairs, eventual head of the household Lady Mary gets the most face time as she grapples with the future of the estate at a time when many British mansions are becoming hospitals or museums. Her brother-in-law, chauffeur-turned-swell Tom Branson, figures in several subplots (and Allen Leech, who plays him, has clearly spent the last four years on a Soloflex machine).

### Who's out?

Remember Lady Rose, the cousin who suddenly showed up halfway through the TV show? Neither does the movie, which doesn't even mention her. Perished in a Charleston accident, possibly? The Dowager Countess' daughter and bickering servants are similarly MIA and if you blink, you'll miss Isobel Crawley's sidepiece, Lord Merton.

Most of the other characters at least make a polite appearance, but many don't have much to do. As in the TV show, for instance, the children toddle in to remind us they exist and then are sent off to bed until they reach adulthood. The movie figured out that Mr. Bates, the valet whose possible murderousness the show spent far too much time on, is not interesting; it metes out his screen time accordingly. We also don't see much of Lady Mary's decorative husband, Henry Talbot (even though actor Matthew Goode is bizarrely listed first on the movie's IMDB page), or Miss Baxter,

who became key in later episodes but mostly wipes out soup tureens here.

### Who's new?

Yes, even with two dozen recurring characters to juggle, the movie has some newcomers, starting with the king, queen and their daughter, Mary (the third Mary in the movie, if you're keeping score). Give or take Geraldine James, who plays the queen, the biggest star joining the cast is Imelda Staunton, an Oscar nominee for "Vera Drake" and, like Smith, a former Hogwarts faculty member. Staunton plays one of those never-before-mentioned cousins the TV series occasionally trotted out in order to spice things up, and she hauls along a companion who could be a love interest for somebody in the household.

### Remind me of a few things?

A couple things to remember from the series finale: Mr. Carson isn't butling anymore for Downton, having retired as a newtwyth (his wife is still called Mrs. Hughes and she's still running the house). Lady Edith finally fell in love and no longer lives at Downton. Long-suffering servants Anna and Bates had a baby, but don't expect to see him or her. Tom is now a car salesman. Mary is in the midst of taking over the running of the estate from her father, Lord Grantham. It's the flapper era, so all of the younger Grantham women are wearing straight dresses and short hair. Despite a gift withering burns that suggests she has a joke writer holed up in her parlor, the Dowager Countess has revealed a sentimental streak a mile wide. And, although it may or may not be historically accurate, it's still disconcerting that everybody is white.

## 'Downton Abbey' is stately but too safe

By LINDSEY BAHK

Associated Press

The "Downton Abbey" movie isn't exactly a movie. It's more like another season of the popular "Masterpiece Classic" show that's been condensed to 90 minutes instead of eight hours.

Written by series creator Julian Fellowes, almost every character who made it out of the six-season run alive is back for their big-screen debut with their own little arc and some lavish costume changes. But Michael Engler's direction doesn't bring any cinematic grandeur to this continuing story of a family and their servants. And Fellowes' script has the impossible task of giving every character his or her own mini plot, as if focusing in on one or a few would have had fans of the other members of the very large ensemble up in arms. Together it makes "Downton Abbey" the movie a fairly shallow experience: All set dressing and nostalgia and some delicious Dowager Countess one-liners.

For "Downton" devotees, the crumbs might be enough. For anyone else just dropping in, however, "Downton Abbey" doesn't exactly stand on its own.

The tidy reason for this big reunion is that King George V and Queen Mary have decided to spend a night at Downton Abbey as part of a royal tour. It's 1927, and the aristocratic class is continuing to question their place in a modernizing Britain, but there are just enough of the old traditions left that the news of this royal visit sends the estate into a tizzy. When the royal entourage descends, the downstairs staff is horrified to learn that they'll be sitting on the sidelines for the visit. The royals travel with cooks, footmen, butlers, valets and dressers, and this group is especially dismissive of the provincial Downton employees.

Lady Mary (Michelle Dockery) even decides to enlist the help of their retired butler Mr. Carson (Jim Carter), when she feels like his successor, Thomas Barrow (Robert James-Collier), isn't equipped to handle this high-profile occasion. It's one of many constructions that will leave you wondering whether fan service has gotten in the way of believable storytelling. Yes, it brings Carson back to Downton and allows Thomas to go off on his own adventure in town, but it's hard to deny that this is one overstuffed movie.

Consider just some of the subplots floating around: Daisy (Sophie McShera) gets to queer her hair and get the long-winded Branson (Allen Leech) gets a possible love interest and anarchy subplot; Anna (Joanne Froggatt) solves a mystery; The Dowager debates inheritance with her cousin Lady Maud Bagshaw (Imelda Staunton); Poor Edith (Laura Carmichael) gets some good and bad news; And Lady Mary, well, she gets a hand in most things except her own relationship since her husband Henry (Matthew Goode) is absent for most of the film. The only ones who don't have all that much going on are the Granthams themselves, Cora (Elizabeth McGovern) and Robert (Hugh Bonneville).

That's not to say that there aren't good moments. There are, in fact, many, especially for those who miss the voyeurism of the fancy dress evenings with the family and their helpers. As in the series, the Dowager is always a standout and at 84, Maggie Smith is as fierce and fiery as ever in bringing her to life. And it is always lovely spending time in such lush surroundings. But the movie could have benefited on a few focus and not so much fan service, especially considering how good all of the ensemble actors are in these roles. Perhaps that's why Fellowes couldn't choose just one.

But if the camera movements and swelling music cues are any indication, there is only real star anyway: Downton Abbey itself.

"Downton Abbey" is rated PG for thematic elements, some suggestive material, and language. Running time: 90 minutes.



## WEEKEND: BOOKS

## Praise be!

Margaret Atwood's 'Testaments' is an answer to readers' questions about 'Handmaid's Tale'

By HILLEL ITALIE  
Associated Press

From a park bench on Toronto's Victoria College campus, Margaret Atwood — class of 1961 — can trace her life of the mind.

"It was here that I decided to become a Victorian (literature student) at a time when it wasn't at all fashionable. They were considered gauche, kitsch, sentimental, absurd," she says, remembering the times she would dash back and forth across the park to take English classes on one side and history and philosophy on the other. "But the foundations of women's equality — John Stuart Mill, those kinds of thinkers — were Victorians and the position of women was a real hotbed topic, extending all the way from proper undergarments to higher education."

"One of my cherished facts is that women weren't allowed into classical art schools because they might see naked women," she adds with a laugh. "What a shock!"

Atwood is among the world's most celebrated authors and most famous Canadians, but on this humid afternoon she is undisturbed by passerby, beyond a few who momentarily turn their heads at the woman in the dark sun hat and blue buttoned shirt.

Just months shy of her 80th birthday, the longtime Toronto resident has otherwise never been more noticed. She has written the year's most anticipated novel, "The Testaments," the sequel to her classic "The Handmaid's Tale" and a Booker Prize finalist. Its contents were so guarded over the summer that early review copies were sent under a different title for fear of their being stolen.

In December, Atwood will be honored in New York by the Center for Fiction, which has given its first ever On Screen Award to her and to Hulu executives for the Emmy-winning adaptation of "The Handmaid's Tale." Hulu and MGM are now planning a series based on "The Testaments."

Atwood has written more than 40 books — novels, story collections, essays and poems — and her awards include the Booker Prize for "The Blind Assassin" and Canada's Giller Prize for "Alias Grace." She is a feminist heroine who in the introduction to a recent edition of "The Handmaid's Tale" defines a feminist novel not as idealizing women, but humanizing them, with "all the variety and character and behavior that implies." In her fiction, women are both killers and killed, betrayers and betrayed, rebels and oppressors.

"The Handmaid's Tale" was published in 1985 and is well settled alongside "1984," "The Origins of Totalitarianism" and others in the canon of books warning us how bad bad can be. In the Republic of Gilead, formed in what was Cambridge, Mass., in the wake of a radical coup, women are confined within a strict caste system that determines how they dress, how they are named (some for the men they serve) and with whom they may bear children. They are forbidden to vote, have jobs, or read or write.

"The Handmaid's Tale" reflects an imagination both expansive and grounded. As Atwood likes to point out, everything in the novel either has happened or could happen. Gilead, she says, is not "invented, but curated," so rooted in the actual and the possible that she speaks of reissuing the book with footnotes.

In announcing "The Testaments" last fall, she cited readers' curiosity about Gilead and, more darkly, "the world we've been living in." As she explains during her recent interview, she wrote "The Handmaid's Tale" in part as a response to the anti-feminist backlash of the 1980s. She didn't expect to write a sequel because she didn't expect the rise of Donald Trump and the world becoming more like the original novel.

"The Handmaid's Tale" anticipated much about the current moment, whether the "resistance" movement Mayday Gilead's infamous Wall. In "The Testaments," the Wall remains, the resistance is stronger than ever and so are the denials; the official Gilead News service deems such reports "all fake."

Praised by The New York Times as a "compelling sequel," "The Testaments" was in the top 10 on Amazon.com a week before its Sept. 10 publication. "Handmaid's Tale" had been a steady seller for decades, but Trump's election and the Hulu series made it a phenomenon, with worldwide sales now exceeding 8 million copies.



### 'The Testaments'

Margaret Atwood

Margaret Atwood wrote her much-anticipated sequel to "The Handmaid's Tale" in a number of places, like "the dome car of a train stuck on a siding due to a mudslide, on a couple of ships, in a number of hotel rooms, in the middle of a forest."

That seems appropriate given that "The Testaments," which begins 15 years after "The Handmaid's Tale" leaves off, is a wild ride, taking us beyond the walls of the fictional Gilead.

In theocratic Gilead, women are uneducated, illiterate and serve to procreate. This follow-up is a suspenseful page-turner, less bleak than its predecessor, with a nod

to spy thrillers. Atwood's "Handmaid's Tale," published nearly 35 years ago, became even more of a cultural phenomenon when Hulu rolled out the 2017 adaptation, sending a new generation in search of a copy of "The Handmaid's Tale," perhaps from their mothers' shelves. The book became a feminist manifesto — required reading in high school and college classes — not only for many coming of age in the 1980s, but for future generations.

In real life in the past couple of years, red-cloaked women started showing up in government halls, protesting discrimination and challenges to reproductive rights, in the costume of the Handmaids, who were systematically raped in Gilead to give "Commanders" progeny.

The fate of Offred is uncertain at the end of "The Handmaid's Tale." And that main character, while mentioned in "The Testaments," is not one of the three women giving testimony, but her actions propel the plot of "The Testaments."

Beginning with the chilling Aunt Lydia, who is writing an account dubbed "The Ardua Hall Holograph," the reader is brought back into the world of Gilead, which seems to be starting to crack. "Over the years I've buried a lot of bones; now I'm inclined to dig them up again — if only for your edification, my unknown reader," Aunt Lydia writes.

The other testimonies come from two girls: Agnes, who grew up in Gilead, and Daisy, who was reared in Toronto. But it is Aunt Lydia who steals the show, and allows Atwood to drop some jokes. Agnes meets in the Schlafly Cafe as she plays other aunts against each other and tells a Commander that at Ardua Hall, a sort of nunnery, they say "Pen is Envy."

In "Testaments," we learn about the origins of Aunt Lydia, who is immortalized as a statue at Ardua Hall while she is still living, one of the most vicious characters of "The Handmaid's Tale." Too old to make babies, she became an "Aunt," charged with instructing and disciplining girls. Lydia recounts how she was beaten three times after the world started falling apart. "Three is a magic number," she says, adding she has a third eye that was "cold, like a stone. It did not weep; it saw." The structure of the three testimonies of the three characters works well in this book, propelling the story and the fate of Gilead.

Agnes, horrified at being married to a ruthless Commander, balks and Lydia takes her under her wing. Daisy, who lives a relatively normal life as a teen in Toronto (where she protests and writes school essays about Gilead), is forced from her home and must confront the reality of the misogynistic Gilead and her past.

"We must all bear the afflictions that are sent to test us," one of the Marthas (women who serve as housekeepers) tells Agnes.

And these three characters are tested. And we are treated to a book that satisfies many of the questions left hanging at the end of "The Handmaid's Tale" by a writer who seems to enjoy this ride.

— Donna Liquori  
Associated Press

Canadian author Margaret Atwood attends a press conference at the British Library to launch her new book "The Testaments" in London on Sept. 10.

ALASTAIR GRANT/AP

## WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

## Gears 5: The definition of a great action game

By CHRISTOPHER BYRD

Special to The Washington Post

It's there in the title: Gears 5, not Gears of War 5. Just "Gears." The de facto name that fans have been using for more than a decade. The clipped title agrees with the game's sense of focus which seems intent on reminding players why the series remains an exemplar of AAA game development.

When I began the campaign with a close friend of mine, another guy who has played through the entire series, we wondered what a new game could bring to the table other than proof that The Coalition could keep the IP — which Microsoft purchased from Epic Games in 2014 — respectfully afloat. But by the time we skipped the credits, both of us agreed that Microsoft's internal studio had created a knockout experience that stands in flattering contrast to many of today's big-budget shooters.

Stylistically, the Gears look is thick-limbed, thick-necked male and ultra-athletic female soldiers, known as Gears, versus all manner of fantastically designed creatures — from waist-height packs of corpse-white Juvies that can

overwhelm with their numbers, to hulking monsters that can pulverize, swallow, or otherwise tear you apart.

Gears' sensibility has always been that of flesh-in-chunks violence (a machine gun with an attached chain

saw is the series' iconic weapon). Yet sentiment has also been a part of the equation for some time. Major characters have died along the way, and the heroes who have been at it since the beginning are now older and have ceded the spotlight to a younger generation.

Much of the plot around Gears 5 revolves around a small band of young Gears trying to bring a devastating weapon, known as the Hammer of Dawn, back online. This laser-powered weapon, which relies on satellites for operation, has been deemed too dangerous by the Prime Minister of the Coalition of Ordered Governments (the COG).

Though they recognize the Hammer of Dawn's potential for indiscriminate mass destruction, the Gears disregard the Prime Minister's injunction. In their view, the possibility of eradicating an alien threat known as the Swarm outweighs the acknowledged risks.

Their decision to follow their own path is not without consequence. People die and personal bonds are strained. You don't have to peer too deeply to spot the subtext of loss and anguished responsibility that runs through the story. However, pithy dialogue and meaningful glances notwithstanding, "Gears 5" is very much a capital-A action game that caters to itchy trigger fingers.

In recent years, a number of big-budget shooters like Destiny, The Division, Anthem and Wolfenstein: Youngblood have acted as poster children for the games-as-service design template. Developing blockbuster games is a costly, multiyear process, so publishers are eager to keep consumers hooked for as long as possible.



**Gears 5 is the rare action game that you won't tire of playing.**

Xbox Game Studios photos

Each of these titles features open worlds that players are encouraged to cross and recross multiple times to grind experience points for better weapons, equipment, and abilities. In practice, this means that one is often fighting the same kinds of enemies, in the same location, that have been fought before.

This is a recipe for staleness. Having played through a number of these games in recent years, I appreciated the more crafted combat scenarios in Gears 5 where new enemies are generously introduced throughout the campaign and enemy groupings are meticulously remixed to make one fight feel different from the next.

Like 2016's Doom, this is a shooter that expects you to internalize enemy patterns to the point where you can efficiently, almost unconsciously, adjust your tactics to suit the situation and the enemy. That means knowing at a glance what to prioritize and what to ignore. (Thus, whenever a Bastion — a small, flying contraption that flies behind and shields much larger enemies — appears, kill it ASAP.)

The environments in Gears 5 are gorgeous. So luminous is the red sand in the game's Act 3 desert level that it reminded me of the lovely saturated colors in the BBC's "Planet Earth II." It also, oddly, made me think of red velvet cake.

Although I encountered a couple of glitches, the overall performance of the game running on the Xbox One X is remarkable. Frame drops are incredibly rare despite the profusion of effects that occur in the most intense combat situations. The Gears of War games have always been technical showcases, and this one extends the tradition.

I did not have the chance to dive deep into Gears 5's multiplayer modes due to the limited number of players on the servers during the prelaunch period. But my friend and I did play a few rounds of Escape, the new cooperative mode that pushes to the fore the series' roots in the



survival horror genre.

In Escape, you play an intrepid saboteur. At the start of each match, a Snatcher, a large reddish-pink alien with a droopy stomach, swallows and then deposits your body in a pod back in its hive. After your character escapes the pod and plants a bomb, it's up to you to vacate the area as fast as possible. Weapons and ammo are scarce, which means you must weigh the value of engaging in a firefight against high-tailing it past enemies that

can be outmaneuvered.

It's a fun mode due to its frantic pacing, but I wonder if it will inspire the sort of long-term engagement that Horde (the co-operative mode in which players face off against waves of enemies), or competitive multiplayer do. In any case, I look forward to trying it out more.

Gears 5 is the rare action game I'd love to play again.

**Platforms:** PC, Xbox One  
**Online:** gears5.com



## WEEKEND: HEALTH &amp; FITNESS



# Snack obsessed

Eating habits of Americans have changed significantly over the past few decades. What does that mean for their health?

By CANDICE CHOI  
Associated Press

Americans are addicted to snacks, and food experts are paying closer attention to what that might mean for health and obesity.

Eating habits in the U.S. have changed significantly in recent decades, and packaged bars, chips and sweets have spread into every corner of life. In the late 1970s, about 40 percent of American adults said they didn't have any snacks during the day. By 2007, that figure was just 10 percent.

To get a better handle on the implications of differing eating patterns, U.S. health officials are reviewing scientific research on how eating frequency affects health, including weight gain and obesity. The analysis is intended to gauge the broader spectrum of possibilities, including fasting. But snacking, grazing and "mini meals" are likely to be among the factors considered, given how they have upended the three-meals-a-day model.

Findings could potentially be reflected in the government's updated dietary guidelines next year, though any definitive recommendations are unlikely.

For public health officials, part of the challenge is that snacking is a broad term

that can mean a 100-calorie apple or a 500-calorie Frappuccino. How people adjust what they eat the rest of the day also varies. Snacks may help reduce hunger and overeating at meals, but they can also just push up the total calories someone consumes.

While there's nothing wrong with snacks per se, they have become much more accessible. It also has become more socially acceptable to snack more places: at work meetings and while walking, driving or shopping for clothes.

"We live in a 24/7 food culture now," said Dana Hunnes, a senior dietitian at UCLA Medical Center.

To encourage better choices as global obesity rates climb, public health officials have increasingly considered government interventions, including "junk food" taxes.

In Mexico, which has among the highest obesity rates in the world, special taxes on sugary

drinks and other foods including some snacks and candies went into effect in 2014.

Last week, a study in the medical journal BMJ said taxing sugary snacks in the United Kingdom could have a bigger impact on obesity rates than a tax on sugary drinks that went into effect last year. While sugary drinks account for 2 percent of average calories in the United Kingdom, sugary snacks like cakes and cookies account for 12 percent, the study said.

Complicating matters, snack options are also continuing to broaden beyond the standard chips and cookies.

"Manufacturers have tried to tap into Americans' concern for health," said Paula Johnson, curator of food history at the National Museum of American History in Washington.

Beyond nutrition, health officials should also consider what emotional or mental health benefits might be lost when people

move away from meals, said Sophie Egan, who writes about American food culture. Meals can be a time for socially connectivity, she said, while snacks are usually eaten alone. She also noted the growth in snacking may be fueled by the stress of busier lives.

"Who knows how much food is a Band-Aid for those issues?" Egan said.

For their part, food companies have moved to capitalize on Americans' love of snacks and stretched the definition of the word. Dunkin' Donuts' former CEO has said the chain's sandwiches should be considered snacks, not lunch. When Hershey bought a meat jerky company, the candy company said it wanted to expand its offerings across the "snacking continuum" to include more nutritious options.

Health experts' recommendations on snacking vary. Children may need more snacks and to eat more frequently. For adults, many dietitians say what works for one person might not for another.

Hunnes, the UCLA dietitian, recommends sticking to minimally processed options like fruit or nuts when snacking. But she acknowledged the advice could sound like it's coming from an ivory tower, given the prevalence of packaged snacks.

"They're just there, and they have a great shelf life," she said.

**Snacks may help reduce hunger and overeating at meals, but they can also just push up the total calories someone consumes.**

iStock



## WEEKEND: FAMILY

## Baby steps

## Hiking with infants catching on with new parents

By AMANDA LOUDIN  
Special To The Washington Post

**S**ix-year-old Mason Hodges can rattle off any number of plant and animal species when out in the woods, his knowledge deeper than many adults.

His mother, 47-year-old Shanti Hodges, credits this to how he's been hiking with her since birth. Shanti is the accidental founder of a movement that is now well over 200,000 families strong. Hike it Baby began right after Mason was born, when Utah-based Shanti found herself feeling cooped up indoors and out of touch with the hiking community she loved.

"When I had Mason, I knew it would feel isolating," she said, "but I didn't expect to feel like I had no friends or that I couldn't get out into nature."

Hodges knew about various active mom groups, such as Stroller Strides, but that wasn't what she was after. "I didn't want to work out, I just wanted to get outside," she said. "I knew it would be good for me and for the baby."

While the outside part was key, so too was the socialization she could find with a group of like-minded newer parents.

"You can try meetup groups, but they end," Hodges said. "I wanted to be part of an ongoing community. When we're out there, we help each other with the kids, our energy is lighter and we feel better after."

The new mom got things rolling by inviting a few others to meet up

with their babies and young children at a local trail. Hodges named the group Hike it Baby, started a newsletter and found her tribe.

"Right away, Mason was easier to manage," she said. "He was happier, we got along better, and I was able to spend time with other adults with an appreciation for the outdoors."

Research backs up what Hodges intuited — that nature is good for kids on many levels. A recent systematic review in *Health Place* found that immersive nature experiences for children benefits self-esteem, self-efficacy, resilience and academic-cognitive performance.

Lawrence Rosen, a pediatrician and founder of the Whole Child Center, agrees. "It's never too early to get kids outside," he said. "We always want evidence of safety when prescribing things for babies and young children, but there are also things we just know, and this is one of them."

Rosen points to the many benefits children and families can garner from time in nature. "We know from thousands of years of experience in a variety of cultures that families who are more connected to nature tend to be happier and healthier," he said. "You are away from electronics and pollution, and you forge community with others."

There's also the sleep factor with babies and young children, he said.

"Being outside in the fresh air, running around and exploring promotes good sleep," Rosen said.

Collin O'Mara, president and chief executive of the Reston, Va.-based National Wildlife Federa-

tion, said the same applies to his children, ages 2 and 7. "Their sleep definitely improves after outdoors time," he said.

In an era where so much of children's lives are scheduled and scripted, O'Mara values the creativity his children develop in nature.

"Take a kid to a playground and they'll get bored after a little while," he said. "But take them to the woods and they will play for hours and never tire of it."

For many new parents, the idea of getting their babies and young children outside might feel intimidating. On a practical level, Rosen said parents with access to parks and forests should consider sun protection, checking for ticks and proper clothing for the temperature.

Hodges has learned from experience how to make hiking with babies an easier experience. "It's easy to think you need to bring everything when you have a baby," she said. "But think about the distance and adjust your gear accordingly."

A short hike, for instance, might require that you bring little more than a diaper and a few wipes in a Ziploc bag.

Think small at first. "Don't try to get epic when you first start hiking with a baby," Hodges said. "Go for things around your neighborhood. While you might have been an avid hiker pre-baby, things are different, especially in the beginning with a new baby or toddler."

But keep at it and soon, your child will be leading the way when it comes to the outdoors.

**'It's never too early to get kids outside. We always want evidence of safety when prescribing things for babies and young children, but there are also things we just know, and this is one of them.'**

Lawrence Rosen  
pediatrician

## THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



## Between blind faith and stranger danger

**B**efore our girls went back to college this year, we gave them the usual advice. Don't walk on campus at night alone, don't take rides with strangers, etc. I stopped short of arming them with pepper spray.

I wondered, do they really need to have their thumbs poised, ready to blind someone with pepper spray? Or, has our culture become paranoid?

As a freshman at Miami University in tiny ivy-covered Oxford, Ohio, I was utterly naive. Violent crime seemed some far-off rarity that happened in New York City or Los Angeles. So when a strange man with a thick foreign accent offered me a ride when I was stranded at the Cincinnati bus station, I took it.

I was on my way back to school from my cousin's wedding in Louisville, Ky. Due to some kind of mechanical failure, my bus was late arriving in Cincinnati, causing me to miss the one daily connection to tiny Oxford. I used my last coins at the pay phone trying to call my dorm phone to see if anyone could make the 50-mile drive to pick me up, but no one answered.

I sat in the vinyl bus station chairs and glanced around the shabby terminal. Realizing I would have to wait for the next day's bus, my mind raced. "I'm out of money. No one knows where I am. I have to spend the night in the bus station. What am I going to do?"

I began to cry.

Mid sob, a thin man with a brown face and a thick Indian accent tapped me on the shoulder.

"Es-cuse me, Miss, can I help you?" he said.

I was so relieved to have some kind of human contact and looked up at the man with tears flowing from my eyes.

"I missed my bus back to school!" I sobbed.

He inquired where I needed to go, and after a moment of thought, offered to drive me to Oxford.

"Are you sure?" I asked. "It takes about an hour." But

he agreed, and I followed him out of the grungy bus station to his car — a brown Ford Fairlane sedan with no distinguishing features. The stranger closed the passenger's seat door after I willingly got in with my backpack. I didn't even know the way to Oxford, and could only tell him to go north. He headed out of the city on unfamiliar roads, looking for signs along the way.

Soon, the last traces of suburban sprawl were in the rear-view mirror, and we were surrounded by the vast cornfields of southwestern Ohio. Not many cars on the road; no one really noticed the plain brown sedan with the foreigner and the 18-year-old girl. No one — not my roommates, my parents, my aunt in Kentucky — had any idea that I was in the middle of a cornfield, locked in an unmarked car with a strange man.

It would take hours for them to realize that I wasn't on that Greyhound bus. The stranger had plenty of time to hide my lifeless body in a cornfield and get back to the anonymity of the city, and his secret life as a serial killer.

But that didn't happen.

"Thanks so much for the ride, Mister," I said to the stranger as he pulled up to my dorm. I offered to run inside and get money to pay for gas, but he politely refused, only asking me to point out the nearest fast-food location.

Without the need of pepper spray, my faith in human kind was blissfully blind, and I gratefully waved farewell as the stranger pulled away.

What am I saying? Should we unlock our doors, unzip our purses and tell our teenage daughters to take up hitchhiking from city bus terminals?

Definitely not a good idea, but who wants to live with the pessimistic assumption that all strangers are dangerous? Sure, there are a few wackos out there who make it smart to carry pepper spray, but as we protect ourselves, let's not chastise the entire human race.

Besides, without the kindness of strangers, I might still be stuck at that bus station in Ohio.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at:  
themeatandpotatoesoflife.com  
Email: meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com

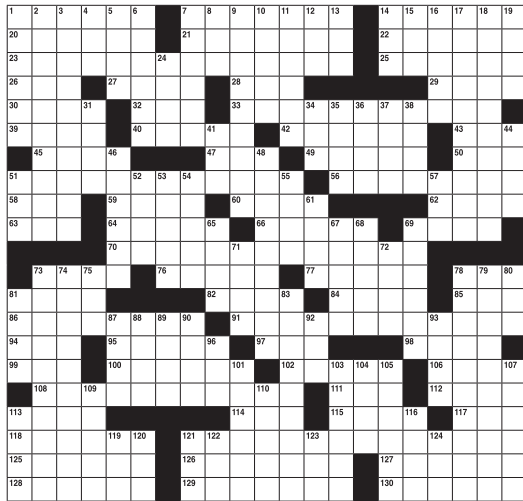
# WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

## NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

### WELL, WELL, WELL, IF IT ISN'T ... BY JOE DIPIETRO / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Joe DiPietro, of Brooklyn, owns a bar called "one star" in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan. He has been contributing puzzles to The Times since 1995. He is sometimes confused with the Tony-winning playwright of the same name, but the two men don't know each other. This Joe writes: "I love the sweet pain of filling grids." He sometimes spends weeks working and reworking them—and the resulting quality shows. —W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Well, for one \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Longhair cats \_\_\_\_\_
- 14 For instance \_\_\_\_\_
- 20 Alternative to Martha Stewart Weddings \_\_\_\_\_
- 21 Caribbean island nation \_\_\_\_\_
- 22 Take in \_\_\_\_\_
- 23 ... the guy who vows to take his Stetson to the grave \_\_\_\_\_
- 25 Baby Gap purchase \_\_\_\_\_
- 26 Famous conjoined twin \_\_\_\_\_
- 27 Figures \_\_\_\_\_
- 28 California's Big \_\_\_\_\_
- 29 TV's "\_\_\_\_\_ Ruins Everything" \_\_\_\_\_
- 30 Lose control on the road \_\_\_\_\_
- 32 IV checkers \_\_\_\_\_
- 33 ... the fraternity guy who wants to be a cardiologist \_\_\_\_\_
- 39 Levelheaded \_\_\_\_\_
- 40 Kind of furniture \_\_\_\_\_
- 42 Triumphant cry \_\_\_\_\_
- 43 Game lover's purchase \_\_\_\_\_
- 45 First word of "Jabberwocky" \_\_\_\_\_
- 47 Dated PC hookup \_\_\_\_\_
- 49 J. Carrol \_\_\_\_\_ (two-time 1940s Oscar nominee)
- 50 Traffic-stopping grp.? \_\_\_\_\_
- 51 ... the guy who barely shows he's exasperated \_\_\_\_\_
- 56 ... the guy who always shows up unannounced \_\_\_\_\_
- 58 Hugs, in a letter \_\_\_\_\_
- 59 Home of minor-league baseball's Aces \_\_\_\_\_
- 60 California's Santa \_\_\_\_\_ Mountains \_\_\_\_\_
- 62 Puts on TV \_\_\_\_\_
- 63 Show that NBC \_\_\_\_\_
- 62-Across, for short \_\_\_\_\_
- 64 Heaps \_\_\_\_\_
- 66 They follow springs by about a week \_\_\_\_\_
- 69 Sylvia of jazz \_\_\_\_\_
- 70 ... the gal who delivered the greatest put-down ever \_\_\_\_\_
- 73 Small prevarications \_\_\_\_\_
- 76 Helicopter sounds \_\_\_\_\_
- 77 Permanent spot? \_\_\_\_\_
- 78 UPS unit: Abbr. \_\_\_\_\_
- 81 "Othello" provocateur \_\_\_\_\_
- 82 "Lethal Weapon" force, in brief \_\_\_\_\_
- 84 Prison division \_\_\_\_\_
- 83 "Well, well, well, whaddya know" \_\_\_\_\_
- 86 ... the guy who takes aerial photos for the military \_\_\_\_\_
- 91 ... the gal who loses it when pass plays are called \_\_\_\_\_
- 94 CPR teacher, maybe \_\_\_\_\_
- 95 Temporally sated, with "over" \_\_\_\_\_
- 97 Critical campaign mo. \_\_\_\_\_
- 98 Source of some pressure \_\_\_\_\_
- 99 Place for trophies \_\_\_\_\_
- 100 Declaration \_\_\_\_\_
- 102 Singer with the 2009 No. 1 hit "TiK ToK" \_\_\_\_\_
- 106 Move a bit \_\_\_\_\_
- 108 ... the gal who spends all day at the hairdresser \_\_\_\_\_
- 111 Rollaway \_\_\_\_\_
- 112 Word with club or cream \_\_\_\_\_
- 113 Aristocratic Italian name of old \_\_\_\_\_
- 114 Cartoonist Keane \_\_\_\_\_
- 115 Dance that might include a chair \_\_\_\_\_
- 117 West Coast summer setting: Abbr. \_\_\_\_\_
- 118 Dag Hammarskjöld's successor at the U.N. \_\_\_\_\_
- 121 ... the guy who can't stop bragging about Bragg \_\_\_\_\_
- 125 Bit of trail mix \_\_\_\_\_
- 126 Underlining alternative \_\_\_\_\_
- 127 Creeped out? \_\_\_\_\_
- 128 Alums given \_\_\_\_\_
- 129 Exams given intradermally, for short \_\_\_\_\_
- 130 Astronaut Taylor of "Bones" \_\_\_\_\_
- DOWN**
- 1 No. 1 nun \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Prolonged period of excessive imbibing \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Soft blanket material \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Ice-cream eponym \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Part of AARP: Abbr. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Note that sounds like an order to get with it? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Appalled \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Big D.C. lobby \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 1995 crime film based on an Elmore Leonard novel \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 At the perfect time \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 Enthusiastic \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 Commercial suffix with Gator \_\_\_\_\_
- 13 Gained a lap? \_\_\_\_\_
- 14 \_\_\_\_\_ Paulo \_\_\_\_\_
- 15 Bit of art pottery \_\_\_\_\_
- 16 Staircase sound \_\_\_\_\_
- 17 "Star Trek" catchphrase said by Dr. McCoy \_\_\_\_\_
- 18 Far Eastern fruits that resemble apples \_\_\_\_\_
- 19 What a prefix or suffix gets added to \_\_\_\_\_
- 24 Sicily's Mount \_\_\_\_\_
- 31 Honey substitute? \_\_\_\_\_
- 34 Appear in print \_\_\_\_\_
- 35 Mouth, slangily \_\_\_\_\_
- 36 Con \_\_\_\_\_ (briskly, in music) \_\_\_\_\_
- 37 Talk like a tough, say \_\_\_\_\_
- 38 "Well, howdy" \_\_\_\_\_
- 41 Dieter's "I" \_\_\_\_\_
- 44 Picks up the bill \_\_\_\_\_
- 46 Unlikely handouts with beers \_\_\_\_\_
- 48 Court V.L.P. \_\_\_\_\_
- 51 Sea plea \_\_\_\_\_
- 52 Period of group activity, slangily \_\_\_\_\_
- 53 Addition to the family \_\_\_\_\_
- 54 Doth depart \_\_\_\_\_



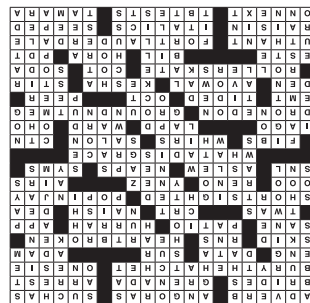
- 55 Diamond brackets? \_\_\_\_\_
- 57 Dissenting vote \_\_\_\_\_
- 61 Swerves back \_\_\_\_\_
- 65 Cry like a baby \_\_\_\_\_
- 67 Large shrimp \_\_\_\_\_
- 68 See 72-Down \_\_\_\_\_
- 69 Parody \_\_\_\_\_
- 71 Pride Parade participants may be in it \_\_\_\_\_
- 72 With 68-Down, summer side dish \_\_\_\_\_
- 73 Shade for a field worker? \_\_\_\_\_
- 74 "Drawn" a blank here? \_\_\_\_\_
- 75 \_\_\_\_\_ vivat \_\_\_\_\_
- 78 Gambler's exclamation \_\_\_\_\_
- 79 Father of Enigma in DC Comics \_\_\_\_\_
- 80 Creamy beverage \_\_\_\_\_
- 81 Tagged, informally \_\_\_\_\_
- 83 LSD who famously claimed he was on \_\_\_\_\_
- 87 And others, for short \_\_\_\_\_
- 88 Kind of bar \_\_\_\_\_
- 89 Renzuit target \_\_\_\_\_
- 90 It can be old or breaking \_\_\_\_\_
- 92 Sport \_\_\_\_\_
- 93 "Ocean's Twelve" role \_\_\_\_\_
- 96 \_\_\_\_\_ Terr., 1861-89 \_\_\_\_\_
- 101 Maze explorer \_\_\_\_\_
- 103 Go downhill in a hurry \_\_\_\_\_
- 104 Part of a parka \_\_\_\_\_
- 105 Relaxing \_\_\_\_\_
- 107 High-grade \_\_\_\_\_
- 109 Auto dealer's offer \_\_\_\_\_
- 110 Auto owner's proof \_\_\_\_\_
- 113 Tip of Italy? \_\_\_\_\_
- 116 Field \_\_\_\_\_
- 119 Shoot down \_\_\_\_\_
- 120 Wile E. Coyote purchase \_\_\_\_\_
- 121 In good shape \_\_\_\_\_
- 122 Gambling-parlor letters \_\_\_\_\_
- 123 Take steps \_\_\_\_\_
- 124 Sort of person who's blue: Abbr. \_\_\_\_\_

## GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. E-mail him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit <http://gunstonstreet.com>.

## RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



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## FACES



Left: "Nailed It!" includes guest judges based on the episode's theme. Here, chef and author Charles Phoenix joins judges Nicole Byer and Jacques Torres.

Netflix photos



It's not clear what this "Nailed It!" creation was meant to be.



Failure is not only an option, it's a likelihood for "Nailed It!" contestants.



Judge Nicole Byer closely inspects a failed attempt at a doll cake from the third season of "Nailed It," which has been nominated for an Emmy in the reality competition category.

# Emmy nom? Nailed it!

## Wacky Netflix baking show nabs unexpected TV awards recognition

BY YVONNE VILLARREAL  
Los Angeles Times

Ever look at a cake and think, "Wow, that looks like a toddler assembled it as part of a sensory activity and then rammed it with a ball or block or tablet between jamming toy figurines into it for decoration?"

If the answer is yes, you were probably watching "Nailed It!"

The Netflix baking competition might curb your sweet tooth—if the whole thing weren't so delicious to watch. Comedian Nicole Byer hosts and judges alongside James Beard Award-winning pastry chef Jacques Torres as high-spirited amateur bakers attempt to replicate elaborately decorated masterpieces and produce visually confounding, sometimes inedible desserts. All for the chance at a \$10,000 prize.

The series, whose third season premiered in May, is basically a TV version of the meme that pokes fun at lofty recipes gone wrong.

And this year it became a surprise Emmy nominee in the often predictable reality competition category, facing off against "American Ninja Warrior" (NBC), "RuPaul's Drag Race" (VH1), "The Amazing Race" (CBS), "The Voice" (NBC) and "Top Chef" (Bravo). "Nailed It!" bumped Emmy veteran "Project Runway" from the running, halting the show's 14-year nomination streak in the category.

On a night that celebrates excellence in TV, in a category of series that reward the best or fastest or savviest, "Nailed It!" stands out: Like the underdogs it spotlights, it's the dark horse.

Byer and Torres were as stunned by the nomination as that time they bit into the cake made with a heavy dose of salt in Season 2.

**'It's really refreshing to be watching a show where imperfection and failure is actually celebrated, because that's most more closely connected to everybody's human experience.'**

Jane Lipsitz

"Nailed It!" executive producer

"My roommate was watching the nominations live ... he was like, 'Nicole, 'Nailed It!' was nominated for an Emmy, and I was like, 'No, it wasn't.' And then I got phone calls from people. I think everybody was pretty confused. I was pretty cool. It was fun. It's such a silly show that it edited so well and the contestants are so thoughtfully picked. So, top to bottom, I think we deserve [the nomination]."

"I couldn't believe it," Torres says. "Yes, I love the show; I love what Nicole [does], but at the end of the day, I'm a chef. I'm in the kitchen all the time. I was not expecting something like this. ... And, look, the message of the show is great: Don't be afraid to fail."

Executive producer Jane Lipsitz, whose other credits include more buttoned-up competition shows such as like "Top Chef" and "Project Runway," says the feel-good spirit of the series plays well at a time when real life is serious enough.

"I think people are drawn to 'Nailed It!' because there's a lot of things that people recognize and love in a traditional baking or culinary show," she says. "But I think we really flipped it on its head and brought something unexpected. It's simple and it's feel-good and it's funny. And I think it feels like this is a time that people really just need that. It's really a show for people who love comedy. [And] it's a show for people who love baking."

In a world that is so heavily filtered and tailored, Lipsitz adds, there's something invigorating about embracing fallibility. "I think we live in very curated times," she says. "Everyone wants you to be perfect. Food looks perfect, fashion looks perfect, people's makeup looks perfect. And so I think there's a saturation of perfection. It's really refreshing to be watching a show where imperfection and failure is actually celebrated, because that's much more closely connected to everybody's human experience."

## Beloved comics 'Boondocks,' 'Far Side' springing back to life

By MICHAEL CAVNA  
The Washington Post

"The Boondocks" and "The Far Side," two cartoon creations that enjoyed massive popularity in the 1990s, are showing new signs of life.

Aaron McGruder's animated series "The Boondocks" is being revived with a two-season order, HBO Max announced Wednesday. The Peabody Award-winning series is based on the comic strip, which debuted in 1996 and received a large syndication launch in 1999.

The revived show from Sony Pictures Animation, which will be reimaged by McGruder, will debut on the streaming service in fall 2020, according to Deadline. The show's original 55 episodes — dating to the series' 2005 launch on Adult Swim — will also be available on HBO Max.

The show, embraced by fans for its controversial satire, will bring back brothers Huey and Riley, as well as Robert "Granddad" Freeman, who have been transplanted to the Maryland suburbs.

McGruder will be showrunner and executive producer. Meanwhile, Gary Larson's "The Far Side," the single-

panel mainstay of millions of refrigerators and calendars that ended in 1995, has flickered with new activity.

For the first time in about two decades, TheFarSide.com changed its homepage art to some of Larson's creations being thawed out by a blowtorch, and offered a fresh message: "Uncommon, unreal, and (soon-to-be) unfrozen."

The site added: "A new online era of 'The Far Side' is coming!"

The teased return of "The Far Side" could mean a mix of cartoon archives and new art from Larson.

For years, Larson and FarWorks Inc. have guarded against the unauthorized online publishing of his cartoons — an effort that in 2008 included a cease-and-desist letter to the site Comic Mix.

"The Far Side," which enjoyed a 15-year run, was widely embraced for its offbeat humor, becoming one of the most successful and widely syndicated single-panel features in comics history.

**"The Boondocks" returns to TV in fall 2020.**

Many comics fans consider the '90s to be the last golden age for the comics page in print newspapers. "The Far Side," Bill Watterson's "Calvin and Hobbes" and Berkeley Breathed's "Outland" were some of the most prominent strips to end during that decade.



HBO Max



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## OPINION

## Mattis shows admirable restraint in memoir

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF  
The Dallas Morning News

Jim Mattis takes only nine words in the prologue of his newly published memoir to make clear he has no intention of revealing juicy behind-the-scenes details of his tumultuous two years as President Donald Trump's defense secretary.

"I'm old fashioned," the retired Marine general writes in "Call Sign Chaos." "I don't write about sitting presidents." The closest he comes to criticism is to write that, "We all know that we are better than our current politics" (though a former aide, Guffy Snodgrass, promises more in his own forthcoming volume).

What a refreshing contrast. For more than four decades, countless presidential appointees have failed to wait until their benefactor left office before going public and cashing in with details about his foibles and the infighting among colleagues. They've done so despite the disrespect and disloyalty to the presidents who made them public figures.

From James Fallows, a speechwriter for President Jimmy Carter, to Omarosa Mangault Newman, a self-promoter inexplicably given a White House job by Trump, presidential aides have broken with what was once standard practice: waiting until their boss left office to reveal his inner secrets.

Franklin D. Roosevelt had been dead for nearly a decade before publication of the "secret diaries" of his interior secretary, Harold Ickes, laid out the behind-the-scenes disputes of his three-plus terms.

President Richard M. Nixon had been out of office more than three years when his former chief of staff, H.R. Haldeman, published his account of the Watergate scandals that landed several top aides, including himself, in jail.

But Carter was still midway through his only term when Fallows, his onetime chief speechwriter, described "The Passionless

Presidency" in the Atlantic magazine. Among other things, it revealed Carter to be so much of a micromanager he decided who could use the White House tennis courts and when.

"He is a stable, personally confident man, whose quirks are few," Fallows wrote. "Carter is usually patient, less vindictive than the political norm, blessed with a sense of perspective about the chanciness of life and the transience of its glories and pursuits."

After three paragraphs of praise came the delineation of the "gifts he lacks." Carter, he wrote, lacked "sophistication," "the ability to explain his goals" and "the passion to convert himself from a good man into an effective one."

Fallows then described in excruciating detail Carter's managerial flaws, from over-reliance on his Cabinet appointees to his determination to make all decisions, big and small, himself, including to "personally review all requests to use the White House tennis court."

The factoid remains part of Carter administration history, along with the Israeli-Egyptian Camp David accord and the Panama Canal treaty.

And it opened the floodgates. Ronald Reagan was still president when his onetime press spokesman, Larry Speakes, wrote a memoir claiming he made up Reagan's discreditable 1985 Geneva summit with Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev.

And he was still there when Don Regan — fired as chief of staff after the Iran-contra scandal — disclosed first lady Nancy Reagan consulted an astrologer to determine White House scheduling.

While neither likely made a financial killing, these books have become communications director, George Stephanopoulos, did. He sold his inside account of Clinton's first term for a reported \$2.75 million advance and became an anchor and analyst for ABC News at an annual salary of over \$15 million.

By contrast, Scott McClellan, the sec-

ond press secretary for President George W. Bush, had difficulty finding a job after publishing "What Happened?" a highly critical account of Bush's presidency.

Trump sought to prevent this sort of thing by requiring campaign and administration appointees to sign nondisclosure agreements barring them from disclosing things they learned during their service. Though they are widely believed to be unenforceable, few former aides have yet tested them.

They include Omarosa, who apparently recorded White House meetings to which she invited herself; former midlevel press aide Cliff Sims, whose suit to bar Trump from enforcing a nondisclosure agreement is still pending in federal court; and Anthony Scaramucci, for 11 days the communications director.

Of course, the Trump White House has been a sieve of daily information, evident in the very detailed reportage of major newspapers, wire services and television stations. The president habitually labels it "fake news," but most has proved accurate, leaving less for later "insider" revelations.

Top aides seemed to exercise little restraint from talking at length to noted Washington Post journalist Bob Woodward, whose "Fear: Trump in the White House" was published in September 2018, and Michael Wolff, a New York magazine writer who seemingly roamed the White House at will compiling his "Fire and Fury," published in January 2018, and "Siege," a June 2019 follow-up.

Still, any reporter who has covered the White House knows that, even in such a leaky environment, a lot only becomes evident when the histories are written years later.

That's what makes Mattis' example of loyalty and restraint so admirable. Judging from his exemplary career, anything else would have been a surprise.

Carl P. Leubsdorf is a former Washington bureau chief of The Dallas Morning News.

## Military officers stabilized many administrations

By ARTHUR L. CYR  
Special to Stars and Stripes

John Bolton's abrupt departure as national security adviser to President Donald Trump is only the latest sudden exit from a top job in this troubled administration. The White House is the center of the turmoil, but for that reason, the instability reverberates widely and powerfully throughout Washington, the federal government and the nation at large.

The imagery of the United States government as a "ship of state" is historically rooted in ways that speak directly to contemporary times, including the exceptionally turbulent White House. The captain of even a small ship cannot afford constantly to change direction. Staying on course is crucial. Serious storms are a danger, but often can be avoided or deflected. This is true in politics as in seamanship.

Bolton may have been fired or he may have initially offered to resign, as he testifies. This event is only the latest sudden change in what is now a non-stop merry-go-round of senior officials coming and then going, often very quickly.

In this context, there has been relative stability at the top of the Intelligence Agency, a particularly influential player among

our multiple federal intelligence agencies. Mike Pompeo joined the current administration as CIA director, and then became secretary of state in April 2018.

Gina Haspel, his successor at CIA, is the first female director and a career professional. Both qualities are major strengths, professionally and politically.

In the current environment, a military officer would be a good choice for national security adviser: Pompeo is a former Army officer and West Point graduate. (Trump's pick, Robert C. O'Brien, served as a major in the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the U.S. Army Reserve.)

Asens. Colin Powell (Reagan administration) and Brent Scowcroft (Ford and George H.W. Bush administrations) were successful in the difficult job. Effective cooperation between civilian and military intelligence officials is essential. Gen. H.R. McMaster's tenure under Trump ended because of poor personal chemistry.

Military officers have been key to government leadership in U.S. intelligence and national security. At CIA, established in 1947, the first four directors were all senior military officers: Rear Adm. Sidney W. Souers, Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, Vice Adm. Robert H. Hillenkoetter, and Gen. Walter Bedell Smith.

Smith was chief of staff for Dwight D. Eisenhower during World War II. As such, he was crucial in the most demanding and difficult military alliance in history.

During more recent decades, the U.S. paid a high price for alienation between civilian and military agencies. During the

Vietnam War, there was general lack of communication between our military and CIA. The latter proved notably accurate — and prescient. Vietnam commander Gen. William Westmoreland, a man of great personal integrity, was so proudly positive about prosecution of the war that he unintentionally surrounded himself with yes-men. Irreverent — and well-informed CIA pros were shunned. Military intelligence officers literally were forbidden from talking to them. Late in that war, Congress acted to force cooperation.

Accurate intelligence and assessment remains essential to our safety and security. False intelligence that Saddam Hussein was developing weapons of mass destruction led to the costly 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Effective coordination is essential at any time for successful defense of our nation, but arguably, today the challenges are especially complex and subtle. General war with one or more great powers is relatively unlikely, thanks in part to the presence of nuclear weapons, but by no means impossible.

The more direct threats of terrorist and non-state armed groups are an unavoidable fact today. Countering and defeating them require special challenges.

Eisenhower's "strange sort of genius" is required to excel at intelligence. Military service is similar in terms of tasks and challenges, including combat and noncombat realms.

Arthur L. Cyr is Clausen Distinguished Professor at Carthage College in Wisconsin and author of "After the Cold War."

## OPINION

# What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

## Trump policy ignores why asylum exists in the first place

### The Dallas Morning News

We understand why immigration leads to a raucous and, too often, heated public policy debate. But what we fear is that this debate, especially the portion of it that centers on those fleeing oppression and seeking asylum in the United States, is losing sight of the people whose lives are at stake in this fight.

We'll stipulate, as we have many times before in editorials, that it is critically important for the United States to have robust border controls, a legal process that is adhered to, and consequences for people who break the law. Our question in engaging in this debate, however, is: always this? What should the law be?

In terms of asylum, it's critically important that this country remain a refuge for those fleeing tyranny. By being that refuge, we undercut tyranny abroad. And by offering asylum, over the course of our history we have taken in millions of people who went on to serve this country with distinction.

So it is with some disappointment that we watched the U.S. Supreme Court's decision last week to stay an injunction on the Trump administration's latest attempt to restrict asylum for those fleeing Central and South America.

Put a little more plainly, the rule change in question — which requires that asylum seekers who enter the U.S. from our southern border first seek asylum in a third country, almost certainly Guatemala or Mexico — took effect on July 16 without the usual presidential proclamation.

As Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote in an incisive dissent, the rule is "especially concerning" because it "topples decades of settled asylum practices and affects some of the most vulnerable people in the Western Hemisphere before without affording the public a chance to weigh in."

For this reason alone, a California District Court was right to enjoin the rule. But, as Sotomayor points out in her dissent, joined by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the lower court "found it probable that the rule would be overturned by the Supreme Court," which "provides that any noncitizen 'physically present in the United States or who arrives in the United States ... may apply for asylum.'"

And while there are "carefully calibrated exceptions" to asylum eligibility, none "for the possibility that a person could safely resettle in a third country." The Trump administration's rule "does not consider whether refugees were safe or resettled in Mexico — just whether they traveled through it." That "blunt approach," said Sotomayor, "rewrote the statute."

Moreover, the idea that asylum in Mexico is an alternative to asylum in the U.S. is not based in fact. America's unequal freedoms, long-established rule of law, and unparalleled economic opportunities are a magnet for millions of hopeful immigrants as well as a place of refuge from war and persecution for, in President Trump's words, "the good people of the world with the will and the heart to get here."

America is a unique place. Not only can you find safety here, but you can assimilate and become American. Take for example, Hung Ba Le, one of millions of Vietnamese who fled after the fall of Saigon in 1975. He was fortunate enough to arrive in America as a refugee and has gone on to an illustri-



RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

**California Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, D-San Diego, speaks at rally last month at the Capitol in Sacramento that sought passage of her measure to limit when companies can label workers as independent contractors. The legislation passed last week.**

ous career in the U.S. Navy that included not only the U.S. Naval Academy but that also included, a decade ago, serving as the commanding officer of a destroyer, the USS Lassen, that docked in Vietnam.

This kind of story would be unusual or impossible in many parts of the world. But here, and other free countries, it's more common than many might realize. Or put another way, the U.S. military and the ranks of corporate America are full of native speakers of other languages because people from all backgrounds can and do subscribe to the idea that is America and become Americans.

Instead of finding ways to more swiftly and judiciously evaluate the claims of all asylum seekers, the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security adopted a rule that only applies to asylum seekers "who enter or attempt to enter the United States across the southern land border after failing to apply for protection from persecution while in a third country, through which they transited" while traveling to the U.S.

President Donald Trump called the Supreme Court's decision to stay the injunction on the rule a "BIG United States Supreme Court WIN for the Border on Asylum!" We respectfully disagree, and hope the court looks it down when it eventually rules on the key issue involved, not just on the temporary injunction from a district court. Regardless of where the court lands, what's needed in Texas and across the country is a congressional fix to our asylum laws and on immigration policy more broadly.

## Bill rightly restores what workers lost in gig economy

### The Washington Post

Critics, and some cheerleaders, too, are greeting the California law as an Uber-killer. They may be right. But the legislation known as AB5 did not start with the ride-hailing industry, and its role in this country's conversation about labor will not end there, either.

AB5, which the Golden State legislature passed last week, codifies a state case re-volving around truck drivers who argued their companies intentionally misclassified them as contractors to save money, even as they hauled goods for tens of hours a week. The rule is essentially this: Workers are company employees if the company controls how and where they work, or if that work is core to the company's business.

This spells trouble for gig-economy start-ups that run on outsourcing. Ride-hailing juggernauts in particular, already in precarious financial shape, are crying out that it represents an existential threat. Uber has said the legislation doesn't apply to it because driving is outside the usual course of its business of ... coordinating

driving trips. It has also said it will sponsor a referendum for voters to overturn the law. And it has said that it loses both the definitional argument and the referendum, the app as we know it faces certain doom.

Well, Uber and Lyft certainly have brought convenience to many users. But if it turns out their model depends on unfair exploitation of labor, then the model does not deserve to survive. It's important to understand this: The California bill is not asking ridesharing companies to give health insurance to every driver who picks up a ride or two between running errands. Employees will have to meet the 30-hour weekly threshold for full-time work to get the benefits mandated for full-time workers.

Still, the bill creates some confusing incentives. Will gig companies gravitate toward hiring mostly workers who can contribute well over 30 hours a week, to avoid responsibility for all those part-timers? Or will the limit mean to keep more drivers part-time so they won't have to provide so many full-time perks?

Ride-hailing companies propose solving their problem with a compromise that retains drivers as contractors but entitles them to earn a minimum wage and band together to bargain, even as contractors. But that might not solve a problem that extends well beyond ride-hailing companies: Americans increasingly work for multiple employers in multiple capacities, and they are losing out on protections because of it.

California's bill will not be the last word, but it will be useful if it kick-starts a nationwide rethinking of labor rules that embrace both flexibility and fairness.

## Chance to improve health care offsets privacy concerns

**The Star Tribune (of Minneapolis)**

Dr. Kurland and Dr. Kurland, who had only have imagined a world in which his employer, Mayo Clinic, would team up with a technology company named Google to mine health care data in hopes of finding new treatments and cures.

But Kurland, the health-data visionary who founded Mayo's infillial Rochester Epidemiology Project (REP) nearly 53 years ago, likely would have applauded the Mayo-Google marriage announced Tuesday and its potential to improve lives not only in Minnesota but globally.

Kurland, who died in 2011, helped make Mayo a world-class center for medical research and care. He also helped lead the potential to improve diagnoses, treatment and outcomes by mining the medical records of people living in southeastern Minnesota's Olmsted County, where the main Rochester clinic is located. That population-based research, which has expanded to include other hospitals and records from 27 counties in Minnesota and Wisconsin, has

provided Mayo and other providers with valuable answers to medical questions on disease risk, frequency, prevention and treatment. The Mayo-Google partnership can build on that success by using cloud computing, machine learning and artificial intelligence.

Skeptics no doubt will question Google's corporate ethics as well as raise data privacy concerns. Like it or not, large technology companies are increasingly focusing on health care, which Google CEO Sundar Pichai has called "one of the most important fields that technology will help transform" in the years ahead. As for privacy, Mayo says it will continue to control patient data and that related research will not include individual identities.

Much can be accomplished between now and 2030, Mayo's chief information officer Christopher Ross told an editorial writer.

The hope is that the partnership will produce new clinical insights. The clinic also hopes to produce new insights on how artificial intelligence can enhance patient care, and Ross said that number could grow. Ross also believes scientists from Mayo and Google will team up to find ways to better connect patients and clinicians — and to make health care more "affordable and accessible."

Kurland's foresight helped make Minnesota a leader in medical research. The Mayo-Google partnership is likely to strengthen that position and produce significant advances in health care in the years ahead.

## Huffman suffered a hit to her money-making star power

### Boston Herald

What is the price of denying opportunity?

When you've helped get your child into a "chance to win" by paying a scammer to boost their SAT score so said offspring gets a coveted slot, thereby taking that come by their score through study and sweat — what should that cost you once you've been caught?

Felicity Huffman, one of the rich and famous netted in the "Operation Varsity Blues" college admissions bribery scandal, it's two weeks in prison, a \$30,000 fine and 250 hours of community service.

As the Boston Herald's Sean Philpott reported, the former "Desperate Housewives" actress was ordered Sept. 13 to self-surrender to a federal lockup Oct. 25. Her lawyers have asked that she serve time at FCI Dublin in northern California, a low-security, all-female inmate prison.

Huffman was sentenced after pleading guilty to a single count of conspiracy and federal bribery, paying \$15,000 to scandal mastermind Rick Singer to boost her daughter's SAT score. She is the first parent to be sentenced among 34 charged in the scheme. According to former federal prosecutor Tim Burke, the allegations against Huffman are among the least serious in the Varsity Blues cases, so defendants such as her husband, Louis G. C. The actress, accused of more egregious schemes, such as bribing college officials, would likely face more jail time if convicted.

Before sentencing, Huffman summed up her actions succinctly: "I was so stupid, and I was so wrong."

Her lawyers have been very reticent in telling "the little people" who smart and right they are — from what to eat to how to vote.

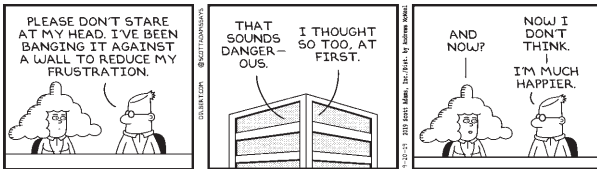
In 2017 Huffman and her husband, William H. Macy, both signed on to a marketing campaign for Renew Life, a line of health and wellness products. The actress told AdAge she'd been trying different brands of probiotics for years. "I'm an encyclopedia about this stuff," she said.

Fame does not confer wisdom. And Hollywood stars should be seen as no better, or worse, than "ordinary" people — especially when their actions undermine the hard work of regular folks.

Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



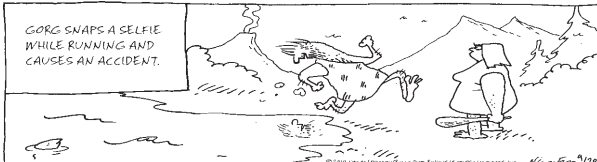
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



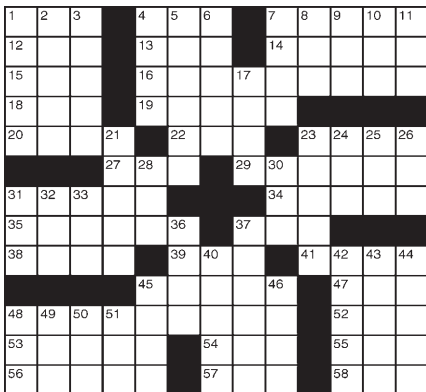
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



### ACROSS

- 1 Moonshine vessel
- 4 "The A-Team" actor
- 7 Plane parts
- 12 One-time link
- 13 Suffix with cash
- 14 Sheepish?
- 15 Carried out
- 16 Goosy pastry
- 18 Green prefix
- 19 Big brass
- 20 Fill up
- 22 Seminary subj.
- 23 Any time now
- 27 Director Howard
- 29 Charity race, maybe
- 31 Fake name
- 34 Madame Curie
- 35 Nissan, once
- 37 Tree fluid
- 38 Reed instrument
- 39 Coach
- Parseghian
- 41 Mediocre
- 45 Musical set in Argentina
- 47 Calendar abbr.
- 48 Fastening tool
- 52 Menagerie
- 53 "Monopoly" buy
- 54 Annoy
- 55 Montreal summer

- 56 Shrilk barks
- 57 Genetic stuff
- 58 Snake's sound

### DOWN

- 1 Green gems
- 2 City near Syracuse
- 3 Gal of "Wonder Woman"
- 4 Fine spray
- 5 Come back
- 6 Navajo or Hopi
- 7 Stir-fry pans
- 8 Wildebeest
- 11 Capitol Hill VIP
- 17 Young cow
- 21 Obliterate
- 23 Ginger cookies
- 24 Bobby of hockey
- 25 Parisian "yes"
- 26 SSW opposite
- 28 Buckeyes' sch.
- 30 Ms. Thurman
- 31 Hubbub
- 32 Science room
- 33 "Am — blame?"
- 36 Cathedral area
- 37 Planet with rings
- 40 Stiff
- 42 Seeps
- 43 Dundee residents
- 44 Some Oklahoma natives
- 45 Building wings
- 46 "Diana" singer
- 48 Bashful
- 49 Sock part
- 50 Pac. counterpart

### Answer to Previous Puzzle



### 9-20

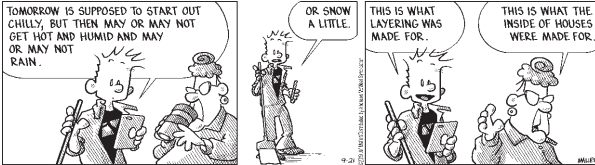
### CRYPTOQUIP

VY EJ TZSYJ OQA EUUATG ZU  
JYG REXQKZJG NYQNQBEGJ  
NEICO QR NEXG-CVGBBZIS

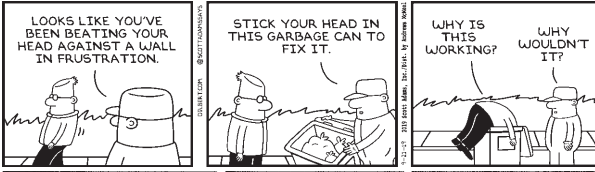
CVEKRU? JQQJUZG JKQBBU.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TERM FOR A GROUP OF WHITE-FLowering SHRUBS THAT ARE ENTIRELY PERISHABLE: MERE MYRTLES.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals M



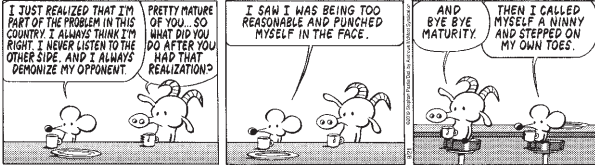
Frazz



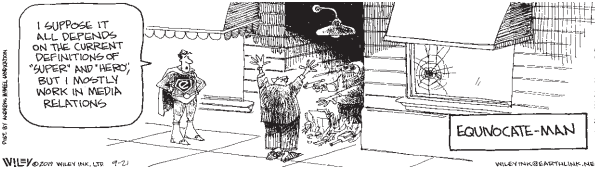
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



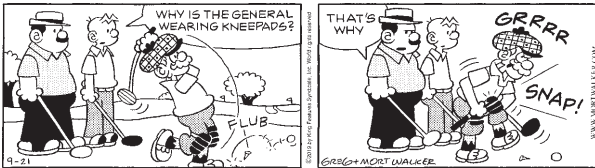
Candorville



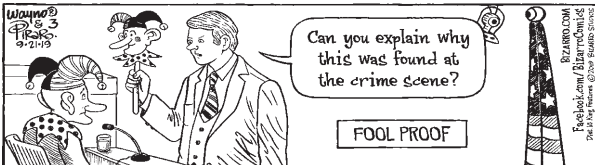
Carpe Diem



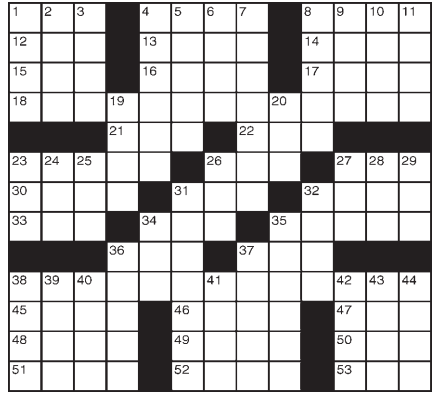
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



# Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## ACROSS

- 1 — Paulo
- 4 Clear the decks?
- 8 Coquette
- 12 Caribou kin
- 13 Edible ice cream holder
- 14 Done with
- 15 Where Lux. is
- 16 Arm bone
- 17 Clinton's vice president
- 18 Unexpectedly large amounts of money
- 21 Flamenco cheer
- 22 Anonymous Jane
- 23 Painter of ballerinas
- 26 Lustrous black
- 27 "— Capital"
- 30 Uttered
- 31 Pantheon member
- 32 Get

- 49 Missing
- 50 Candle count
- 51 Lip
- 52 Omelet base
- 53 Flushed

- 24 — de cologne
- 25 Showbiz job
- 26 Task
- 27 Payable
- 28 Nile viper
- 29 That girl
- 31 Graceful antelope
- 32 Seize
- 34 Aviv preceder
- 35 Burial vaults
- 36 Rose parts
- 37 Chinese-food request
- 38 Track circuits
- 39 Actress Fisher
- 40 Ergo
- 41 Life story (Abbr.)
- 42 Tale teller
- 43 Desire
- 44 Scratched (out)

## DOWN

- 1 Beholds
- 2 Grad
- 3 Gumbo veggie
- 4 Racing shells
- 5 "The Right Stuff" author Tom
- 6 Part of A.D.
- 7 Like Santa or Uncle Sam
- 8 Popularity
- 9 Bard's river
- 10 Simple
- 11 Corp. VIP
- 19 Burden
- 20 Nanny's charge
- 23 ISP alternative

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



9-21

## CRYPTOQUIP

TO N BYNU BFKK OLZZLMD  
CLF Nelfur YJYECMSY EY ND N  
RYKYWKTJY BTISK, NEY CLF  
XYTUI WFE-KNTZYR?

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** WHAT MIGHT YOU ASSUME IS THE FAVORITE CHOCOLATE CANDY OF CAVE-DWELLING DWARFS? TOOTSIE TROLLS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals L

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902

Transportation

944

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People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

### Automotive 140

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### Arts & Crafts 080

4 Handmade Sussex Trugs (from UK) - \$20.00 - Set of 4 hand-made Sussex Trugs from England. Great for storing little things or decoration. PCS Sale. Call: +49-6571-9522421

### Autos for Sale 141

2013 VW Golf R - \$20,000.00 - US Specs car purchased in Arizona 4 Door Black Pearl R speed manual Upgraded Catch Upgraded ECU 300+ HP Upgraded Brembo 6 cylinder brake system not daily drive Two owners. Call: +49-6571-9522421

Mercedes for sale - 2009 E200, Compression, Airking 7 P.T.O, 120K miles, New Tires, Road, US/UK Inspected. Call David at 016-474-0250 Email: [daavid094@gmail.com](mailto:daavid094@gmail.com) Call 010-474-0250

Volkswagen Volkswagen Westfalia - \$8,750.00 - 1994 Volkswagen Camper Westfalia edition 165,000 miles US spec engine replaced in 2011 with a custom built "SolWesty" currently has about 13,000 miles just passed inspection. Many parts replaced over the last 8 years call for a huz2014@gmail.com

### Autos for Sale Germany 142

Auto - Quality Pre-owned US SPEC Vehicles [www.vlinekmlilitaryautosales.com](http://www.vlinekmlilitaryautosales.com) Free Europe-wide delivery

### Four Wheel Drives 162

Mahogany Sheraton Revival Chair (from UK) - \$125.00 - Sheraton revival mahogany salon chair. Shield shaped back, recessed back, solid stuff over solid mahogany. Call: +49-6571-9522421

### Collectibles 350

African Ebony Letter Openers and Pen Holder - \$30.00 - 2 Ebony Letter Openers and 3 Pen Holders. Call: +49-6571-9522421

### Electronic Shopping440

N750 DB Wi-Fi Dual-Band N-Router (from UK) - \$175.00 - N750 DB Wi-Fi Dual-Band N-Router. Router, black, new price \$175.00. Call: +49-6571-9522421

### Furniture 510

Antique English Bureau (Desk) - \$500.00 - Circa mid-19th Century English desk front hand carved mahogany. Call: +49-6571-9522421

Edwardian Walnut Arched Mirror (from UK) - \$600.00 - Edwardian Walnut mirror in a pediment. Call: +49-6571-9522421

English Oak Ladderback Chair - \$300.00 - Pair of English Oak Ladderback Chair. Call: +49-6571-9522421

US Army Vintage Fort Dix Scarf - \$10.00 - Vintage US Army Fort Dix Scarf. Call: +49-6571-9522421

### Furniture 510

English Wicker Picnic Hampers - \$175.00 - 2 Brand New English Wicker Picnic Hampers (Baskets). One Wine hessie for 2 with cutting board, leases, etc. One is service for 4 up to 6. Call: +49-6571-9522421

Mink Trimmed Cream Colored Cape - \$40.00 - Ladies hand-made cream coloured velvet cape (with lining) trimmed in mink. Great for winters in Germany. Leave your # and I will get back to you. PCSing to WA? Call: +49-6571-9522421

Mirror (from UK) - \$75.00 - Edwardian Walnut mirror circa 1900. 34 1/2" H x 25" W. From England. Good condition. PCS Sale. Buyer picks up. Call: +49-6571-9522421

Monopoly Norwich (England) Special Edition - \$20.00 - Brand new Monopoly Norwich Edition (from England). A street war!

Burleigh Ware Tea Set - \$200.00 - 10 piece Burleigh Ware Tea set. Teapot, sugar bowl, water jug and 6 cups. Call: +49-6571-9522421

overseas/militarytag tags your towel with 16 from England, brand new. Buyer picks up. PCS Sale. Leave message and I will call you back. Call: +49-6571-9522421

### Furniture 510

New Fireplace Screen and Fireplace Tools - \$170.00 - Brand new Antique Copper Finish Fireplace screen and set of matching antique copper metal fireplace tools. Price is for both items. Leave tel # and I will contact you. Buyer picks up. Call: +49-6571-9522421

### PCS Sale 780

Bodum Coffee Press + Travel 6 cups - \$40.00 - Bodum Chambord Coffee Press with copy + 6 cups + Antique Rosewood new condition. Sold as a set. PCS Sale. Leave phone msg and I will call you back. Buyer picks up. Call: +49-6571-9522421

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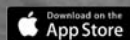
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## HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA PACIFIC/MLB

## Far East showdown: Kadena vs. Kinnick

By DAVE ORNAUER  
Stars and Stripes

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa — Ask most Division I coaches in DODEA Pacific football and they'll tell you every game means something.

But the last two-plus seasons, Kadena vs. Kinnick has ended up meaning more than any other pairing.

They've played each other the last two years for the Far East D-I title. And in every other game they've played, host rights to the title game have been on the line.

Friday's rematch is no different, as the Panthers (2-0) and Red Devils (1-0) take their unbeaten records into their latest showdown — with, quite possibly, D-I final host rights at stake yet again.

"We're anticipating a great game, just like the last four or five games, with a lot of fireworks," said Red Devils 10th-year coach Dan Joley. "This is a very meaningful game. Every game is important in Division I."

It's a question, Panthers 15th-year head coach Sergio Mendoza says, of keeping the proper perspective — it's an important game, but so is every game.

"Any time you play a Division I team, there's always something on the line," Mendoza says. "Right now, we're just focused on the week-to-week. The history is what it is. For us, it's game-by-game, step-by-step."

Kickoff is at 6:30 p.m. Friday at Yokosuka Naval Base's Berkeley Field.

The field is ready to go after taking a pounding from Typhoon Faxai on Sept. 8-9. There had been some doubt as to whether Berkeley could host the game, but needed repairs were done in short order, officials said.

One difference this year is both teams feature quite a few freshmen and sophomores on their rosters that otherwise include veterans such as Kinnick quarterback Patrick Kelly and Kadena running back Alfonso Mendez.

"We both lost a lot of upperclassmen," Mendoza said. "We have to teach them (young players) that this is high school football and they need to step up. Some will step up earlier than others, but we'll be better off for it."

Friday's American School in Japan at Kubasaki D-I football game was rescheduled for Nov. 1 due to Tropical Depression Tapha's projected approach this weekend and the forecast of high winds and heavy rain.

The ASIJ Mustangs should end up playing their first game of the season next Saturday when they host Kadena.

ornaure.dave@starsandstripes.com  
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MICHAEL WYKE/AP

Houston Astros starting pitcher Gerrit Cole, the major league leader in strikeouts, on Wednesday became the third Astros pitcher to throw 300 strikeouts in a season.

## The 300 club: Astros' Cole reaches milestone

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Gerrit Cole wanted to get his milestone strikeout at home, and he accomplished the feat in an important win for the Houston Astros.

Cole struck out 10 batters, including his 300th of the season, in eight strong innings, Yuli Gurriel and Jose Altuve homered and the Astros beat the Texas Rangers 3-2 Wednesday night to lock up a postseason berth.

Houston won its fifth straight and 100th game of the season, becoming one of six teams in major league history to win at least 100 games in three straight seasons. The Astros lost at least 100 games in three straight seasons from 2011-13.

The Astros (100-53) have a one-game lead on the New York Yankees, who lost 3-2 to the Los Angeles Angels, for the best record in the majors. Houston can clinch the AL West as early as Friday with a win and loss by Oakland.

"If you like winning, 100 three years in a row is a lot," Houston manager AJ Hinch said. "I love it for this team and for this organization. It's a big accomplishment. It's one step along the way for us and what we're trying to accomplish this season. I don't want that to be the high note by any means."

Cole (18-5) allowed two runs on six hits in earn-

ing his 14th straight win. He hasn't lost since May 22 against the White Sox, a span of 20 starts. Cole struck out 10 or more for the seventh straight start, tying the club record set earlier this season by Justin Verlander.

"He's incredible," Hinch said. "He's a special player; he's a special person. It was a big night for him. That's a big accomplishment. He did it in a win. He's been a workhorse for us the entire year. These performances that he just rattles off (are) not easy. He makes it look a lot easier than it is."

Cole, the major league leader in strikeouts, became the third Astros pitcher to reach 300 strikeouts in a season, joining J.R. Richard, who had 313 in 1979 and 303 in 1978, and Mike Scott, who struck out 306 in 1986.

Cole struck out Shin-Soo Choo to end the sixth for his 300th of the season. After the strikeout, Cole leaped off the mound and was given a standing ovation as he walked to the dugout. Cole waved to the crowd with his glove hand and touched his chest with his throwing hand.

"At first, I didn't know that was the one," Cole said. "Then, it became pretty obvious, and I just wanted to spend a minute with the fans and thank them for the ovation and all the support."

## MLB scoreboard

## American League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	99	54	.647	—
Tampa Bay	90	63	.588	9
Boston	79	72	.523	19
Toronto	61	91	.401	37½
Baltimore	49	103	.322	49½
Central Division				
Minnesota	93	59	.612	—
Cleveland	89	63	.586	4
Chicago	66	86	.434	27
Kansas City	56	97	.366	37½
Detroit	65	106	.380	47½
West Division				
2-Houston	100	53	.654	—
Oakland	92	61	.601	8
Texas	74	79	.484	26
Los Angeles	69	83	.454	30½
Seattle	64	88	.421	35½

## National League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
2-Atlanta	93	60	.608	—
Washington	83	68	.550	9
New York	79	73	.520	13½
Philadelphia	78	72	.520	13½
Miami	63	94	.349	39½
Central Division				
St. Louis	85	67	.559	—
Chicago	82	70	.539	3
Milwaukee	82	70	.539	3
Cincinnati	72	81	.471	13½
Pittsburgh	68	87	.438	20
West Division				
x-Los Angeles	95	53	.641	—
Arizona	78	75	.510	20
San Francisco	74	78	.487	23½
San Diego	69	83	.454	28½
Colorado	66	87	.431	32

## Wednesday's games

Oakland 1, Kansas City 0, 11 innings	
Tampa Bay 8, L.A. Dodgers 7, 11 innings	
Seattle 4, Pittsburgh 1	
Cleveland 2, Detroit 1, 10 innings	
L.A. Angels 3, N.Y. Yankees 2	
San Francisco 11, Boston 3	
Houston 3, Texas 2	
Chicago White Sox 3, Minnesota 1	
Toronto 11, Baltimore 10	
St. Louis 5, Washington 1	
Arizona 5, Miami 4	
N.Y. Mets 7, Colorado 4	
Philadelphia 4, Atlanta 1	
San Diego 2, Milwaukee 1	
Cincinnati 3, Chicago Cubs 2, 10 innings	

## Thursday's games

Seattle at Pittsburgh	
San Francisco at Boston	
L.A. Angels at N.Y. Yankees	
Toronto at Baltimore	
Detroit at Cleveland	
Kansas City at Minnesota	
Philadelphia at Atlanta	
San Diego at Milwaukee	
St. Louis at Chicago Cubs	

## Friday's games

Seattle (Hernandez 1-6) at Baltimore (TBD)	
Toronto (Waguespack 4-5) at N.Y. Yankees (Happ 12-8)	
Boston (Porcello 13-12) at Tampa Bay (Morton 15-6)	
Chicago White Sox (Sease 3-7) at Detroit (Zimmermann 1-11)	
Philadelphia (Smily 4-6) at Cleveland (Bieber 14-7)	

Kansas City (TBD) at Minnesota (Smetzer 1-2)	
L.A. Angels (Barria 4-9) at Houston (Grimke 16-5)	
Texas (Morris 13-9) at Oakland (Fiers 14-4)	
St. Louis (Wacha 6-7) at Chicago Cubs (Quintana 13-8)	
N.Y. Mets (deGrom 9-8) at Cincinnati (Castillo 15-6)	

Washington (Sanchez 9-8) at Miami (Dugger 6-2)	
San Francisco (Beede 5-9) at Atlanta (Foltynewicz 7-5)	
Pittsburgh (Braut 4-5) at Milwaukee (Anderson 8-4)	
Arizona (Kelly 11-14) at San Diego (Lauer 8-9)	

Colorado (Lambert 3-6) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 14-5)	
Saturday's games	
Toronto at N.Y. Yankees	
Boston at Tampa Bay	
Chicago White Sox at Detroit	
Seattle at Baltimore	
San Francisco at Minnesota	
L.A. Angels at Houston	
Texas at Cleveland	
Texas at Oakland	
St. Louis at Chicago Cubs	
N.Y. Yankees at Cincinnati	
Washington at Miami	
Philadelphia at Milwaukee	
San Francisco at Atlanta	
Arizona at San Diego	

Sunday's games	
Toronto at N.Y. Yankees	
Boston at Tampa Bay	
Chicago White Sox at Detroit	
Seattle at Baltimore	
Kansas City at Minnesota	
Philadelphia at Cleveland	
Texas at Oakland	
St. Louis at Chicago Cubs	
N.Y. Yankees at Cincinnati	
Pittsburgh at Milwaukee	
San Francisco at Atlanta	
Arizona at San Diego	
Colorado at L.A. Dodgers	

## Calendar

Oct. 1-2 — Wild-card games.

Oct. 3 — Division Series start.



## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Roll: Battle could have impact on playoff picks

## FROM BACK PAGE

Of course, it won't be a history class they're taking Saturday night.

It's a football game that could have reverberations all the way to the College Football Playoff.

No. 3 Georgia (3-0) will host No. 7 Notre Dame (2-0) for the first time between the hedges (a.k.a. Dooley Field at Sanford Stadium), a showdown that has been eagerly anticipated in these parts pretty much since the series was announced five summers ago.

"It's going to be electrifying in that stadium, that's for sure," said former Georgia coach Vince Dooley, whose name was officially added to the massive facility less than two weeks ago.

It will be only the third meeting between these famed programs.

The first came at the 1981 Sugar Bowl, when a Georgia team coached by Dooley and starring Herschel Walker sealed what remains the school's only consensus national championship with a 17-10 victory over the Fighting Irish.

For Dooley, who grew up attending Catholic schools in Mobile, Ala., and listening to Fighting Irish games on the radio, all while dreaming of playing in South Bend, the significance of beating the school of Knute Rockne and the Gipper only added to the celebration nearly four decades ago.

"The main thing was playing for the national championship," the 87-year-old Dooley recalled Monday. "We would have been happy playing anybody. But especially Notre Dame."

Two years ago, the teams met for the first time in South Bend. Under the gaze of Touchdown Jesus, the red-clad Georgia fans stormed into town by the thousands to cheer the Bulldogs to a 20-19 victory that signaled the beginning of their return to national prominence under coach Kirby Smart.

Georgia went on to capture the Southeastern Conference title and make it all the way to the na-

tional championship game, where it lost to Alabama in overtime.

Smart refused to discuss Notre Dame through the first three weeks of the season, which proved to be little more than a run of glorified scrimmages. The Bulldogs romped past Vanderbilt, Murray State and Arkansas State by a cumulative score of 148-23.

Now, finally, he's ready to talk about the Fighting Irish.

"It's a great game to have, a nonconference game you play at home and a school with such a tradition as Notre Dame," the fourth-year coach said. "I know a lot of Georgia fans have had this one marked on the schedule for a long time. So have a lot of Notre Dame fans."

Georgia is even bringing in some extra seats, adding temporary aluminum bleachers accommodating 500 people in the west end zone plaza that will ensure a record crowd of more than 93,000.

Notre Dame is used to being the biggest game every place it goes.

Coach Brian Kelly said it won't be an issue to get ready for the frenzied setting in Athens.

"We'll work on it during the week," he said. "We have an indoor facility ... we can make that as loud as we want it to be. It will be hot here, too. The weather will be warm. There won't be any excuses relative to acclimating to the weather conditions. We'll prepare them for all of those."

While Smart knows the Georgia fans are especially pumped for this game, he's trying to pass on the same sense of urgent normalcy he has every week.

"As far as the stage, the biggest thing you can do is let your players relax and play," he said. "The team that over-analyzes it and hypes it up and makes it bigger than it is, larger than life, sometimes that gets you in trouble. We've played in a lot of big games. We've got a lot of people in our team room and in that building that have played in big football games. So they're not going to be intimidated by that."



PAUL SANCYA/AP

Notre Dame quarterback Ian Book says the Irish talk "about having a road-warrior mindset."

## Kelly says Irish excited to be playing big game

By JOHN FINERAN

Associated Press

**B** SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Brian Kelly sensed his No. 7 Notre Dame football team had a little extra bounce in its step Sunday morning and it wasn't because of its 66-14 victory over New Mexico 16 hours before.

Playing a nationally televised game this Saturday night at No. 3 Georgia will do that for you.

"Oh, they're excited," Kelly said Sunday of his 2-0 Fighting Irish, who now want to see if their act plays well enough on the road against the third-ranked Bulldogs, who are coming off a 55-0 victory over Arkansas State.

"They know they had to take care of business with New Mexico and that they had to play better than they did at Louisville (a 35-17 victory)," Kelly said. "They understand the caliber of play that will be needed. They are excited about the challenge in front of them. They come to Notre Dame wanting to play in these kinds of games. It's like being in a Broadway show."

With Notre Dame on their schedule, Kirby Smart and his Bulldogs probably feel the same way about only the third meeting between the two teams.

The first came at the end of the 1980 season when freshman sensation Herschel Walker led Georgia to a 17-10 victory in the 1980 Sugar Bowl that earned a national championship for coach Vince Dooley.



No. 7 Notre Dame (2-0)  
at No. 3 Georgia (3-0)  
AFN-Sports  
2 a.m. Sunday CET  
9 a.m. Sunday JKT

The second game Sept. 9, 2017, Kelly had rebuilt his staff following a 4-8 campaign, and the Irish and Bulldogs battled under the lights at Notre Dame Stadium before the Bulldogs prevailed in a memorable 19-17 victory.

"We were certainly feeling as we had done the things necessary to get the program back to where it needed to be," Kelly said.

The triumph helped to catapult Georgia to the College Football Playoff championship game that the Bulldogs lost in overtime, 26-23, to SEC rival Alabama.

Since that loss, the Irish are 23-3, including a 12-0 regular-season run in 2018 that got the Irish into the CFP playoff instead of the Bulldogs, whose 11-2 regular season was deemed not good enough.

The memory of their 30-3 CFP semifinal loss to eventual national champion Clemson and a 2019 schedule which included visits to Louisville, Michigan (Oct. 26) and Stanford (Nov. 30) in addition to Saturday's showdown in San-

ford Stadium are feeding Notre Dame's mindset.

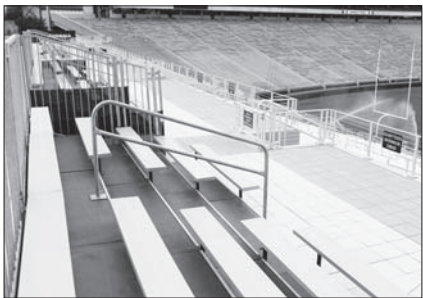
"We talk about having a road-warrior mindset and that's what it's going to take for us," said quarterback Ian Book, who threw for 360 yards and a career-high five touchdowns against the Lobos. "We just have to go in there and play our game and focus on us and the small details."

That's easier said than done. But then the Bulldogs did just that in 2017 as true freshman Jake Fromm completed 16 of 29 passes for 141 yards in his first collegiate start and the Georgia defense limited Notre Dame to 55 rushing yards on 37 carries.

"(Fromm) played with great poise and was extremely efficient," Kelly recalled. "They were extremely athletic two years ago and they are a little bigger up front this year. They are just an outstanding football team in all areas."

Notre Dame, which recruits nationwide, has recruited Georgia hard and the series, announced in 2014, may have helped the Irish to secure 6-foot-4 freshman safety Kyle Hamilton, who attended the Marist School north of Atlanta. His 34-yard interception return for a touchdown got the Irish started against New Mexico.

The Irish likely will have two more offensive pieces back in tight end Cole Kmet, who broke a collarbone in preseason, and running back Jahmir Smith, who sat out last week's game after scoring a pair of touchdowns against Louisville.



JOSHUA L. JONES, ATHENS BANNER-HERALD/AP

Bleachers were installed at Sanford Stadium ahead of Saturday's top-10 game against Notre Dame in Athens, Ga. The additional seating will increase the capacity to a record of more than 93,000.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL



ANDREW SHURTLEFF/AP

Florida State coach Willie Taggart reacts to a call during his team's loss to Virginia on Saturday. Miami, Syracuse and FSU have all been hurt by making too many penalties this season.

## ACC's flagging enthusiasm

Miami, Syracuse, FSU have hurt their starts with penalties

BY AARON BEARD  
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — The mistakes — a false start here, a facemask penalty there — keep piling up for some Atlantic Coast Conference teams expected to contend for division titles.

Syracuse and Florida State were picked to finish behind reigning national champion Clemson in the Atlantic Division, while Miami was picked second in the Coastal. Yet they're off to shaky starts and rank among the most penalized teams in the nation. Their inability to get out of their own way at the start of league play has put them in an early hole.

"I think it's very telling of who you are as a team," said ACC Network analyst Eric MacLain, a former Clemson offensive lineman who played on the Tigers' national runner-up team in 2015. "At the end of the day, you're not going to win a lot of ballgames if you keep that behavior up. You're playing now (against) a second team within yourself, and you can't even do the little things right. So it's really tough."

The Seminoles, Hurricanes and Orange have had too many misses.

Florida State and Miami each have committed 26 penalties, tied with the Big Ten's Michigan State and the Pac-12's Arizona for the most of any power-conference program. Syracuse is in the next group with 25.

The troubles are particularly concerning for Seminoles coach Willie Taggart, whose team escaped with a win against Louisiana-Monroe that was sandwiched between a season-opening loss to Boise State and last weekend's



STEVE JACOBS/AP

Syracuse coach Dino Babers watches a Clemson touchdown on Saturday. The 0-2 Orange have committed 25 penalties.

loss at No. 21 Virginia. Florida State ranks tied for 116th in the 130-team Bowl Subdivision, committing 8.67 penalties per game, and 119th in average penalty yards at 78.33.

Four came when the Seminoles lined up offense. Another five came on offensive or defensive holding calls. And there have been seven personal fouls, including three fourth-quarter ones against Virginia — prompting Taggart to lament "selfish penalties" and talk about doing more in practice to deter players from them because "it's killing this football team."

Things started badly for the Hurricanes and first-year coach Manny Diaz with 14 penalties for 118 yards in the season-opening loss to No. 9 Florida, though they had fared in the loss at North Carolina (7-for-57) before beating overmatched Bethune-Cookman.

"I think that's a habit," Miami coach Manny Diaz said. "I think that's a way that you practice. I think that's a way that you run your offseason program. That's not to say in a heated environ-

ment, guys won't make a mistake for the rest of the year. When we came in with our accountability structure, we said the mistake of one affects others."

As for Syracuse, Dino Babers' Orange had an easy season-opening win against Liberty that overshadowed 10 penalties for 88 yards. The problem resurfaced with nine flags for 85 yards against top-ranked Clemson last weekend, including two 15-yarders in the opening quarter.

"Honestly, I couldn't even tell you (why) because I don't know myself," Syracuse defensive back Trill Williams said when asked about the penalties. "But it's tied in with discipline. We've got to get more disciplined."

It is a trademark for good teams and one reason Clemson, Virginia and Wake Forest are unbeaten.

The Demon Deacons are second nationally in fewest penalty yards per game (22.67) and third in average penalties (2.67). The Cavaliers rank in the top 25 in fewest penalties per game (5.0), while Clemson is in the top third of the FBS ranks in both categories (5.67, 47.67).

## Nebraska's offense all about big plays

BY ERIC OLSON  
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — When a Scott Frost offense is at its best, it's moving fast and generating big plays.

Nebraska has scored 12 offensive touchdowns and two field goals through three games, and seven of those 14 possessions featured plays between 30 and 75 yards.

There also have been plays of 60 and 61 yards on series that ended in a missed field goal or turnover.

"Generating big plays, whether it's a run up the middle or a deep pass, helps our offense flow and helps us get into that tempo even more, helps us feel we have the defense on their heels," quarterback Adrian Martinez said Monday. "With that being said, I don't think we need it to have a long drive and score a touchdown. I do think having big plays, chunk plays, help."

The Huskers (2-1), who open Big Ten play Saturday night at Illinois (2-1), lead the Big Ten and are tied for sixth nationally with seven plays of at least 40 yards. Their four plays of 60 or longer is first in the conference and tied for second in the nation behind Oklahoma State's five.

On the flip side, Nebraska has had 15 non-touchdown possessions that failed to net 10 yards, but only three of those came in the 44-8 win over Northern Illinois this past weekend.

"We can still play a lot better on offense," Frost said. "We left some points on the table, we left some plays on the table. I think we were more efficient. We still lack a little bit of execution more often than I would have liked to."

Of the 12 TD drives, four lasted 39 seconds or less and two others took less than 2 minutes.

Not surprisingly, the Huskers' average time of possession of 25 minutes, 44 seconds, is second-to-last in the Big Ten and 122nd nationally.

"We want to be an explosive and fast offense," offensive lineman Matt Farniok said. "What that means is we're going to score fast, so our defense is going to

## By the numbers

7

Through three games, Nebraska leads the Big Ten with seven plays of at least 40 yards.

12

Offensive touchdowns through three games for the Cornhuskers.

25:44

Nebraska's average time of possession is only 122nd nationally.

SOURCE: Associated Press

take a little more workload. We're trying to score as fast as possible unless it's an end-of-game situation."

Linebacker and co-captain Mohamed Barry said he takes it as a challenge for the defense to be forced to spend so much time on the field. The defense has held up well, with the exception of the fourth quarter in a 34-31 overtime loss at Colorado.

Nebraska is allowing just 2.18 yards per carry and a respectable 4.74 yards per play even though it has been on the field for 238 snaps.

"It doesn't matter how many times we're on the field. We want to be the best defense," Barry said. "That's what we were happy on all summer. We're not just a defense that relies on (its) offense. We've got so many good players now that we can make that happen."



NATHAN HARRIS/AP

Nebraska running back Dedrick Mills, left, runs past Northern Illinois safety Adam Buiрге, bottom, for a touchdown Saturday.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## All-America watch

## Georgia's Reed connects early with competing

By PAUL NEWBERRY  
Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — J.R. Reed plays for one of the nation's powerhouse programs, where the competition begins as soon as you step on campus.

No problem.

Family time prepared him well for what it took to earn a starting job in Georgia's secondary.

"That's where I found the love and passion for sports, no matter what it is," Reed said, giving credit to his mother, father and sister. "I can be playing checkers around the house with my family. Everyone's going to compete, everyone's going to work hard. We can be playing Connect Four, we're going to compete at that. It doesn't matter how big or how small the game is, we're going to compete."

That's really not surprising.

His father, Jake Reed, played a dozen seasons in the NFL as a receiver for the Minnesota Vikings and New Orleans Saints. He retired in 2002 with 450 receptions, 6,999 yards and 36 touchdowns.

Now, his son is trying to keep other guys from catching the ball. J.R. Reed is one of the defensive leaders for the third-ranked Bulldogs, who face No. 7 Notre Dame on Saturday night in a game that could have ramifications all the way to the College Football Playoff.

Since transferring from Tulsa, Reed has started 32 consecutive games at safety, showing a nose for the football (four interceptions, two fumble returns for touchdowns) and a hard-hitting style that has made him one of the team's leading tacklers each of the past three seasons.

But the 6-foot-1, 194-pound native of Frisco, Texas, really shines in practice, in the meeting rooms and away from the field.

"A very good leader. Works very hard, extremely hard," tight end Eli Wolf said. "Super smart. He anticipates and super well. A hard guy to get off of in cover-



JOSHUA L. JONES, ATHENS (GA.) BANNER-HERALD/AP

Georgia defensive back J.R. Reed, the son of former NFL receiver Jake Reed, said coming from a competitive family has prepared him to play for one of the nation's powerhouse programs.

age. I think he's a very integral part of the defense here."

Reed started at Tulsa, where he didn't make an impact in his freshman season (five tackles, one pass breakup). Then, in what seemed a bizarre twist given his lack of playing time at an American Athletic Conference school, he decided to transfer to Georgia after the 2015 season.

Kirby Smart had just arrived as coach. He immediately took notice of the obscure transfer who had to sit out a season before he was eligible to play in the mighty Southeastern Conference.

"You get the best of J.R. every day at practice," Smart said. "J.R. doesn't take a day off — and that

was when he was not even eligible to play. I mean, he was a really hard worker, and that jumped out at you."

Turns out, Reed's timing was impeccable.

He claimed a starting job as a redshirt sophomore just as Georgia was returning to national prominence. Reed led the team with nine tackles along with two quarterback hurries in a breakthrough win at Notre Dame. He blocked a field goal against Stanford. He scooped up a fumble and returned it for a TD against rival Florida. He made seven tackles in a thrilling Rose Bowl victory over Oklahoma.

Reed was selected to the All-

SEC second team as the Bulldogs won their first conference title since 2005 and made it all the way to the national championship game, losing an overtime heart-breaker to Alabama.

### Who's hot

Chuba Hubbard, RB, Oklahoma State. The sophomore provided a glimpse of his potential late last year and now he's the focal point of the Cowboys' offense. Hubbard leads the nation in rushing at 173.67 yards per game, which includes an eight-carry day in a 56-14 blowout of FCS opponent McKeesee State. When Oklahoma State has really

needed the 207-pound Canadian, he had a pair of 200-yard games and six touchdowns. The Cowboys always seem to have a good tailback, but Hubbard might be the best of the Mike Gundy era.

### Who's not

Eno Benjamin, RB, Arizona State. Benjamin ranks 34th in the nation (69.7 yards per game) in rushing and is averaging 3.67 yards per carry. That's after leading the Pac-12 in rushing last season.

### On the line

(SEC Network analyst Cole Cubelic, a former Auburn guard, breaks down an offensive lineman playing at an All-America level).

Logan Stenberg, OG, Kentucky. The 322-pound senior has been dominant early in the season.

"He plays through the whistle, often seeking out contact 15 to 20 yards down field. He is an aggressive run blocker who can keep that under control to also be a great pass protector as well."

### All-America matchup

Georgia offensive tackles Andrew Thomas and Isaiah Wilson vs. Notre Dame edge rushers Julian Okwara and Khalid Kareem. The best part of Notre Dame's defense is its pass rushing ends. Okwara, a second-team preseason All-American, is the best of the bunch and there is depth behind the top two, with Daelin Hayes and Adetokunbo Ogundiji.

The 320-pound Thomas is one of the top tackles in the country, a future first-round NFL draft pick. Wilson is also a former five-star recruit who has a chance to develop into a high draft pick. The 340-pound sophomore missed the last two games with an ankle injury, but he returned to practice Monday wearing a brace and the Bulldogs are hopeful he'll be able to go against the Fighting Irish.



MORRY GASH/AP

Wisconsin isn't known for its passing, but last week, Jack Coan finished 26-for-33 for 363 yards in a defeat of Central Michigan.

## Coan, Cephus lead balanced Badgers

By TAMIRA MADSEN  
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — A new-look Wisconsin team will be set for Big Ten action when the 13th-ranked Badgers host No. 11 Michigan on Saturday.

Specifically, junior quarterback Jack Coan and wide receiver Quintez Cephus add a dimension to Wisconsin's arsenal compared to last season, when the Wolverines trounced the Badgers, 38-13, in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Coan and Cephus didn't play in the 2018 matchup for the Badgers (2-0), who like the Wolverines (2-0), are fresh off a bye week.

"They have a great defense," Coan said of Michigan. "It's full of athletes, especially the defensive backs. (Their) linebackers can cut really

well and obviously the D-line gets a lot of pressure."

Coan ranks ninth nationally with a pass efficiency rating of 184.5, which was boosted by a career-best effort in Wisconsin's 61-0 win over Central Michigan on Sept. 7. He finished 26-for-33 for 363 yards and three touchdowns — all career highs — against the Chippewas for a 201.2 pass efficiency rating.

Cephus was Coan's main target through the air during the Central Michigan romp, as Cephus earned career highs of six receptions for 130 yards and two touchdowns.

The university expelled Cephus last year on two counts of sexual assault and announced his reinstatement on Aug. 19, after he was found not guilty of the charges.

The pass game was a nonfactor last year at Michigan, as former Badgers quarterback Alex Hornibrook was 7-for-20 for 100 yards and one touchdown.

But a combination of playmaking on the ground and in the air likely will be the best strategy against Michigan.

"I think the offense as a whole — for me, the offensive line, the receivers — we're all planning on playing better," Coan said. "We'll see what happens."

Wisconsin tailback Jonathan Taylor acknowledges the Badgers' offense will be better served in the long run if there's balance. He leads the nation with eight touchdowns and averages 151 yards from scrimmage.

"This is a game where a running back like me can do whatever I can to help the team win," Taylor said.



# COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## TOP 25 SCHEDULE

### Friday

No. 10 Utah at Southern Cal  
No. 20 Boise State vs. Air Force

### Saturday

No. 1 Clemson vs. Charlotte  
No. 2 Alabama vs. Southern Miss.  
No. 3 Georgia vs. No. 7 Notre Dame  
No. 4 LSU at Vanderbilt, 1 p.m.  
No. 6 Ohio State vs. Miami (Ohio)  
No. 8 Auburn at No. 17 Texas A&M  
No. 9 Florida vs. Tennessee, Noon  
No. 11 Michigan at No. 13 Wisconsin  
No. 12 Texas vs. Oklahoma State  
No. 15 UCF at Pittsburgh  
No. 16 Oregon at Stanford  
No. 19 Washington State vs. UCLA  
No. 21 Virginia vs. Old Dominion  
No. 22 Washington at BYU  
No. 23 California at Mississippi  
No. 24 Arizona State vs. Colorado  
No. 25 TCU vs. SMU

## SERVICE ACADEMIES

### Air Force (2-0)

at Boise State (3-0), Friday  
Last week: beat Colorado 30-23, OT

### Army (2-1)

vs. Morgan State (0-2), Saturday  
Last week: beat UT-San Antonio, 31-13

### Navy (2-0)

Does not play  
Last week: beat East Carolina, 42-10

## POWER FIVE STANDINGS

ACC			Atlantic Division			Overall		
	W	L	W	L	W	W	L	W
Clemson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boston College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wake Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NC State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Louisville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syracuse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Big 12			Conference			Overall		
	W	L	W	L	W	W	L	W
Oklahoma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oklahoma State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kansas State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baylor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TCU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Texas Tech	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kansas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Virginia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iowa State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Big Ten			East			Overall		
	W	L	W	L	W	W	L	W
Ohio State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Penn State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minnesota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maryland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Michigan State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rutgers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indiana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Pac-12			North			Overall		
	W	L	W	L	W	W	L	W
California	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oregon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oregon State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stanford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SEC			East			Overall		
	W	L	W	L	W	W	L	W
Georgia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missouri	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tennessee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kentucky	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Carolina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vanderbilt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

West			Conference			Overall		
	W	L	W	L	W	W	L	W
Alabama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mississippi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LSU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Auburn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Texas A&M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mississippi State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arkansas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



BUTCH DILL/AP

**Auburn running back Ja'Tarvious Whitlow tries to get around Kent State linebacker Cepeda Phillips during the first half last Saturday. He has 64 carries in three games, for 341 yards and three touchdowns. He also fumbled three times against Tulane.**

## KEY POWER FIVE MATCHUPS

**Air Force (2-0)**  
**at No. 20 Boise State (3-0)**  
**3 a.m. Saturday CET**  
**10 a.m. Saturday JKT**  
**AFN-Pacific**

**Series record** — Boise State leads 4-3.

**What's at stake?** — Boise State welcomes Air Force in a significant Mountain West Conference opener. The Broncos are unbeaten after wins over Florida State, Marshall and Portland State, while the Falcons are riding high following last week's 30-23 overtime win at Colorado.

**Key matchup** — The Air Force run game vs. Boise State's run defense. The Falcons' option attack has given teams headaches for years. Just ask Colorado, which last week gave up 289 yards on the ground to Air Force. Boise State's run defense has been solid. The Broncos have not allowed any of their opponents to rush for more than 116 yards. The last two times the Falcons beat the Broncos they rushed for more than 300 yards.

**Boise State:** QB Hank Bachmeier. While the freshman has played well overall, he's been especially good on third downs. Bachmeier is 21-for-29 for 356 yards, 17 first downs and three touchdowns when facing third-down situations thus far. He's also added 33 yards rushing, three first downs and a TD on third downs as well.

**Facts & figures** — Boise State has won 19 straight conference openers with its last loss in 1999 to North Texas as a member of the Big West Conference. ... Air Force is 13-7 in MWC openers dating to 1999. ... Boise State has won 115 straight home games when leading after three quarters. ... Air Force's last win over a ranked team was a 27-20 victory over Boise State in 2016. The Falcons haven't beaten a ranked team on the road since winning at Cal in 2002.

**No. 10 Utah (3-0)**  
**at Southern Cal (2-1)**  
**3 a.m. Saturday CET**  
**10 a.m. Saturday JKT**  
**AFN-Sports**

**Series record** — Southern Cal leads 11-6.

**What's at stake?** — The Utes will look to solidify their status as favorites to win the Pac-12 South and the conference's best contender to reach the College Football Playoff. For embattled Trojans coach Clay Helton, this is another chance to convince fans and boosters he can put the West Coast power back on its historic pedestal.

**Key matchup** — USC's offensive line vs. Utah's defensive line. The Trojans were routinely flustered up front in their 30-27 overtime loss at BYU last week. Now USC will have to contend with a front four for Utah that coach Kyle Whittingham has described as the best he has seen in his 15 seasons in charge. Utah is allowing 2.7 yards per carry and has seven sacks.

**Players to watch** — **Utah:** RB Zack Moss could break several career rushing records for the Utes with a big performance. Moss needs 196 yards rushing to pass Eddie Johnson (3,219) and become the school's leader. His next game with 100 yards rushing will be the 14th of Moss' career to tie John White and Devontae Booker for most in school history.

**USC:** WR Michael Pittman Jr. had nine catches for 95 yards and two touchdowns against BYU, including a spectacular 30-yard scoring grab in the fourth quarter. The 6-foot-4 senior should be able to use size to his advantage against All-Pac-12 cornerback Jaylon Johnson.

**Facts & figures** — Utah is 1-8 against USC in Los Angeles, and the only win happened in 1916. The Utes are 0-7 at the Coliseum. ... Helton is 3-6 against teams ranked in the AP Top 10, including a 42-24 win over No. 3 Utah in 2015. ... Utah QB Tyler Huntley is second in the Pac-12 and fourth in the FBS with a 77.8 completion percentage. ... Utah is one of four FBS teams that have not allowed a sack, along with UAB, New Mexico and Air Force.

**No. 8 Auburn (3-0)**  
**at No. 17 Texas A&M (2-1)**  
**9:30 p.m. Saturday CET**  
**4:30 a.m. Sunday JKT**  
**AFN-Sports**

**Series record** — Texas A&M leads 5-4.

**What's at stake?** — Auburn looks to remain undefeated as the Tigers open Southeastern Conference play with their first true road game of the season against a Texas A&M team coming off a rout of FCS school Lamar a week after losing at No. 1 Clemson.

**Key matchup** — Auburn QB Bo Nix vs. Texas A&M's secondary. The freshman will make his first start in a hostile environment at Kyle Field, with a capacity of 102,733, against a secondary tied for third in the nation with five interceptions. Nix was picked off twice in Auburn's opener against Oregon, but hasn't thrown an interception since. He hasn't put up big numbers either, with the Tigers ranking last in the SEC in yards passing.

**Players to watch** — **Auburn:** RB Ja'Tarvious Whitlow has been the Tigers' best offensive weapon, especially with injuries to the receivers. He already has 64 carries in three games, for 341 yards and three touchdowns. He also fumbled three times against Tulane, losing a pair of them.

**Texas A&M:** RB Isaiah Spiller. The freshman was great last week in A&M's first game without Jashaun Corbin, who sustained a season-ending hamstring injury against Clemson. He ran for 116 yards and two touchdowns against Lamar to become the first freshman in school history to have two 100-yard rushing games in the first three games of a season.

**Facts & figures** — DE Marlon Davidson has been the SEC's defensive lineman of the week after each of the past two games. ... Auburn had three players with 100-plus yards rushing in the Kent State game for the first time since 1983. That group included backup quarterback Joey Gatewood. ... The Tigers are 3-0 for the 50th time in franchise history. ... The Aggies have scored at least 10 points in 43 straight games.

—Associated Press

## RUGBY/AUTO RACING

# Rugby World Cup finally held in Asia

By STEPHEN WADE  
Associated Press

TOKYO — The first Rugby World Cup in Asia starts Friday in Tokyo, another sport out to tap a giant region that's in the midst of playing host to three straight Olympics and world championships of varying pedigrees.

Japan's national team caught attention four years ago by upsetting two-time champion South Africa in the Rugby World Cup in England. Organizers would love a similar result again to drive interest in a country where baseball and soccer are still more popular, but rugby has deep roots.

Jamie Joseph's Japan squad faces 20th-ranked Russia to open the six-week, 20-team tournament on Friday at Tokyo Stadium, which is set to be packed for a Pool A match that at any previous World Cup would have attracted little outside attention.

Amid many changes, one thing remains the same: two-time defending champion New Zealand is a slight favorite in the tightest tournament to date. South Africa, 2003 champion England and No. 1-ranked Ireland have strong claims, while Six Nations winner Wales and two-time champion Australia are also in the mix.

If you love drama, it comes very early. The New Zealand All Blacks and South Africa's Springboks face off Saturday in Yokohama in the most compelling group game of the tournament — and, perhaps a preview of the Nov. 2 final.

In other big games on the open-

ing weekend, three-time finalist France takes on Argentina in a Pool C game that will likely hurt the team that loses — considering England is in the same group — Australia faces Fiji in Pool D and Ireland takes on Scotland.

South Africa and New Zealand have met four times at the Rugby World Cup and each have two wins — three of those decided by four points or fewer.

The last four head-to-heads between the long-time rivals in the southern hemisphere's Rugby Championship have been decided by two points or fewer, including a 16-16 draw this season.

"Our last three matches have ended in stalemate, one win each and a draw, for an aggregate score of 82-82," Springboks coach Rassie Erasmus said. "I think we have a healthy respect for each other's capabilities but it will come down to a small moment to decide a big game in the end, I suppose."

Even beyond the All Blacks contingent, there is New Zealand flavor everywhere.

Seven of the 20 head coaches are Kiwis. And teams like Japan, which are building and rely on some outside help, are sprinkled with coaches and players with roots away from the country.

Japan shares its group with Ireland, Scotland, Russia and former quarterfinalist Samoa. After Russia it faces Ireland, then Samoa, making its last pool match against Scotland a possibly decisive contest for second place if Ireland tops the pool as expected.



CHASE STEVENS/AP

Kyle Busch smiles as he prepares for the NASCAR Cup Series race in Las Vegas on Sunday. Afterward, Busch was critical of young drivers not in the playoffs who "don't know where to go."

## Busch criticism highlights NASCAR's financial disparity

By JENNA FRYER  
Associated Press

The massive divide between NASCAR's heavyweights and the underdog teams just scraping by received renewed attention following Kyle Busch's damning assessment of how backmarkers raced in the playoff opener over the weekend.

Busch rallied from an early incident at Las Vegas Motor Speedway that dropped him two laps off the pace to stunningly position himself for a top-five finish. Instead, he ran into the back of Garrett Smithley, who was 12 laps down in 35th place.

Busch, the regular-season champion, dropped to a 19th-place finish and went from first to fourth in the playoff standings. Clearly aggravated after Sunday's race, he was blunt about the incident with Smithley, who was among 23 drivers on the track that day who are not in the 16-driver playoff field.

"I was told he was going to go high. I thought he was going to go high," Busch said of the instructions he received from his spotter. "We went middle because I thought he was going to go high. Killed our day. I don't know. Should have run fourth, probably. Instead 19th. We're at the top echelon of motorsports, and we've got guys who have never won Late Model races running on the race track. It's pathetic. They don't know where to go."

The comments have drawn sharp criticism, with some saying they came off as entitled selfish pity because another driver didn't get out of Busch's way. Some responses came from some lesser-known drivers on underfunded teams and helped spark a debate over on-track etiquette during the playoffs.

Tommy Joe Martins, an Xfinity Series driver when he can piece together a deal to get in a non-competitive car on Tuesday, sported "my friend" Smithley and

called him a "really good race car driver."

"This fear for any of us driving for a small team, become a controversy," Martins posted on Twitter. "We all just want to race & be respected. Stuff like this proves how bitter the divide is between 2 sides of this garage. It's depressing to me."

Smithley will be Rick Ware Racing's driver for Saturday night's race at Richmond Raceway, the second event in NASCAR's 10-race playoff series. It will be his 13th career Cup Series start; he has one top-five finish in 133 starts across the Xfinity and Truck series.

Busch has always driven for one of NASCAR's top teams. His break in the Cup Series came with Hendrick Motorsports and he was then hired at Joe Gibbs Racing, which has won 14 of 27 races this season and placed all four of its drivers in the playoff field. Busch has 207 victories across NASCAR's three national series and won the 2015 Cup championship.

His criticism of the smaller teams and the drivers trying to claw their way up to Busch's level prompted a lengthy rebuke from Smithley.

He noted that, unlike Busch, who followed his older brother, Kurt, into a ride at NASCAR's top level, Smithley "didn't grow up in a racing family, and we certainly didn't have the funds to race. The only race car my parents ever bought was a used Bandolero race car when I was 15. I didn't think I had a chance starting that late."

Smithley said he won enough races that a local golf cart shop owner stepped in as a sponsor, bought him a Legends car and helped Smithley move up to touring level. Then he decided to relocate to North Carolina, the hub of NASCAR, and try to make it in the big leagues.

"When I decided to move to Charlotte to pursue a career as a professional driver, there is no doubt I had to basically give up the chance to win races in order to

'fund' getting the opportunity to race," he continued. "I am one of only a handful of drivers that actually has never spent any of my own money to race. So spending money to go win in a late model was never an option, because the only way I can afford to race is if someone else pays for it."

Smithley said he sells his own sponsorship, which he then brings to a team in order to secure seat time. He said most companies and sponsors prefer to back "someone like Kyle" to get the marketing value they want.

"Nobody that is considered 'in the way' wants to be," he wrote of the incident with Busch. "We are simply doing the best we can" and "I do think I can be competitive in the right equipment and I will even go a step further and say, with time and equal funding my teams with Rick Ware Racing, Johnny Davis Motorsports can be competitive, too."

NASCAR is attempting to address the current model and financial distributions, and team owners such as Bob Leavine of Leavine Family Racing have repeatedly said they believe a balance can be struck between the wealthy front end of the garage and the small teams in the back that spend each week short on tires, parts, personnel and everything else needed to be competitive.

Any solution will not come quickly.

Joey Gase penned a similar tale of his struggle to make it in NASCAR. Gase and Smithley were running near each other when Busch ran into Smithley. Gase's post included photos from late model races he won, noted he needed outside financial support to continue his career because his father worked in a coal power plant and his mother was a hairstylist and couldn't afford for Gase to race as his childhood sport.

"We have to work for every sponsor we get and I am proud to say I have 30 different sponsors this year and would not be here without them," Gase wrote.



Kyodo News/AP

Australia's Michael Hooper, right, trains with a teammate in Ebetsu, Hokkaido, northern Japan ahead of the Rugby World Cup.

## NFL

# Foot injury keeps Panthers' Newton out of workouts

By STEVE REED  
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Panthers coach Ron Rivera is confident backup quarterback Kyle Allen can get the job done if Cam Newton can't play Sunday against the Cardinals, a scenario that seems increasingly likely each day.

Allen took reps with the first team again Wednesday after Newton missed his second straight day of practice with a mid-foot sprain. If Allen's number is called, he would start Sunday against his former college teammate Kyle Murray and the Arizona Cardinals.

"Kyle is a very bright quarterback who understands the game and grasps it very well," Rivera said. "He's got a good arm and he's a good decision maker and he plays very fast. He has all of the intangibles you want in a quarterback."

Rivera was not ready to name Allen the starter, even though Newton remains in a boot after aggravating his foot injury last Thursday night in a 20-14 loss to the Buccaneers. He said Newton has still been involved in the quarterback meetings and is "doing all the things he needs to do."

But all signs are pointing to

**'Kyle is a very bright quarterback who understands the game and grasps it very well.'**

Ron Rivera  
Panthers coach

Allen getting his second NFL start for the Panthers (0-2).

If that happens, it will mean a matchup between Allen and Murray, who split time at quarterback with Texas A&M in 2015.

Allen started the season and had the Aggies off to a 5-0 start but was benched after having three interceptions returned for touchdowns against Alabama and then struggling against Mississippi. Murray replaced him for three games before Allen returned as the starter to close the season.

After that season, both QBs transferred — Allen to Houston and Murray to Oklahoma.

"It's wild," Allen said of the prospect of facing Murray. "We were together at A&M for seven months there and then split and went different ways. Seeing his career and my career, they were two completely different paths."



Mike McCarn/AP

**Carolina Panthers quarterback Kyle Allen may see action again this week with starter Cam Newton missing practices due to a reaggravated foot injury. Allen has just one career start.**

Allen went undrafted in 2018, while Murray was the No. 1 pick in the NFL Draft earlier this year.

It would also be a homecoming for Allen, who grew up in Scottsdale, Ariz., and attended several NFL and college games at the Cardinals' home stadium, including when Newton led Auburn to a win over Oregon in the 2011 BCS national championship game. Also, Allen's best friend is Cardinals wide receiver Christian Kirk, another former Aggies teammate.

The Panthers don't have much film on Allen, but what they have they seem to like.

Allen led Carolina to a 33-14 win over the Saints in the 2018 regu-

lar-season finale in his only NFL start. He had three touchdowns in that game — two passing and one rushing — before exiting in the fourth quarter with an injury. But he showed enough in that game to impress teammates and coaches with his confidence.

Allen said that gave him immeasurable confidence and it carried over to this summer, where he beat out rookie third-round draft pick Will Grier for the No. 2 QB spot behind Newton.

Panthers veteran tight end Greg Olsen said Allen is incredibly confident, and nothing seems to faze him. He said that's partly because the rollercoaster ride he experienced in college.

"You have those ups, you have

those downs and you learn a lot about yourself," Allen said. "Through all that crap that I went through in college, and even here, getting released last year, I think you build that resolve. You build that confidence. And no one can really take that from you."

Said Olsen: "The biggest thing for him now is just gaining experience."

He could get that with Newton sidelined indefinitely.

Olsen, who has known Newton as long as anyone in the Panthers locker room, said the 2015 league MVP gave him no indication that he'd re-injured his foot during the Bucs game, but said that doesn't surprise him.

# Rams' pass defense off to another strong start

By GREG BEACHAM  
Associated Press

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Just like the rest of the pigskin-loving world, the Los Angeles Rams' secondary was dazzled by Odell Beckham Jr.'s latest feat of one-handed brilliance when they watched Monday night's game.

"I mean, we already know what (Beckham) can do, but that was crazy," Rams safety John Johnson said after watching Beckham's catch against the Jets. "I really liked the throw, too."

When they get an in-person look at Beckham, Baker Mayfield and the Cleveland Browns (1-1) this weekend, the Rams' (2-0) defensive backs are hoping to keep up their strong start to the season with another shutdown game.

And if they give up any big plays in Cleveland, they don't plan to let it distract them from their goal of another strong season for a relatively unused section of the defending NFC champions' defense.

"Any cornerback will tell you, it's all about the next play, the next play," Nickell Robey-Coleman said. "We'll just play the best defense we can play, and at the end of the day, Odell Beckham is still going to do something like that. We just have to move on."

Not many opponents have done something like that lately to the Rams. After



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

**Rams strong safety John Johnson celebrates after an interception against the Saints.**

capping three straight strong playoff games by holding Tom Brady to 262 yards and no touchdowns in an otherwise miserable Super Bowl for Los Angeles, the Rams are off to a superb start in passing defense again over the first two games of this season.

Los Angeles has allowed an NFL-low

one reception longer than 20 yards, and opponents are managing just 5.52 yards per reception — third fewest in the league. The Rams and Patriots are the only teams that haven't allowed a touchdown pass.

The Rams are seventh in the league in yards passing allowed (201.5) even though they haven't trailed in a game, which means

their opponents have been throwing the ball urgently while playing from behind in the second half. They've also got two interceptions and five sacks despite the offseason departures of nose tackle Ndamukong Suh and safety Lamarcard Joyner.

The pass defense got an inadvertent boost last week when Drew Brees injured his thumb in a collision with Aaron Donald's hand on the second series of the Rams' 27-9 win over New Orleans. Capable backup Teddy Bridgewater couldn't get the Saints into Los Angeles' end zone despite throwing 30 passes to Michael Thomas and a solid group of receivers.

"We've got great players," safety Eric Weddle said, citing Aqib Talib, Marcus Peters and Robey-Coleman as "three of the best cornerbacks in the league."

"We all can cover. We all can manipulate the defense. We all can run. And I think we have A.D. (Donald), the best player on defense in the league, playing on our side. It's a complete team effort. As a secondary, we strive to be the best. We know the quickest way to lose in this league is giving up long plays."

Weddle replaced Joyner in the secondary this season, and the veteran is calling the signals for the passing game. Weddle says there's no single reason for the Rams' solid start on defense, but his teammates are already giving him credit for keeping them organized and focused.



## NFL

# 49ers' backfield backup plan working well

## Trio of undrafted free agent backs have kept San Francisco running

By JOSH DUBOW  
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Losing the free agent running backs San Francisco signed the past two offseasons to injuries did little to slow down the 49ers' ground game.

A trio of undrafted free agents is making sure the Niners don't miss a beat.

Matt Breida, Raheem Mostert and Jeff Wilson Jr. combined for San Francisco's sixth-most productive rushing day of the past decade last week in Cincinnati, leading the team to 259 yards on the ground and two touchdowns and creating the threat that fueled the play-action passing game from Jimmy Garoppolo.

It was an impressive performance from three players who entered the league with little notoriety. Breida, Mostert and Wilson all failed to get drafted but are proving they can play now that they've gotten the chance.

"When you come in the league undrafted, usually you're last on the depth chart and they don't expect you can play," Breida said. "You have to prove you can belong in the league."

The three are doing just that, making sure the Niners don't miss Jerick McKinnon and Tevin Coleman, who were supposed to be the centerpiece of the running game.

McKinnon, who signed a four-year, \$30 million contract in 2018, has yet to see the field in San Francisco because of a pair of knee injuries that have sent him to injured reserve before the start of the season each year.

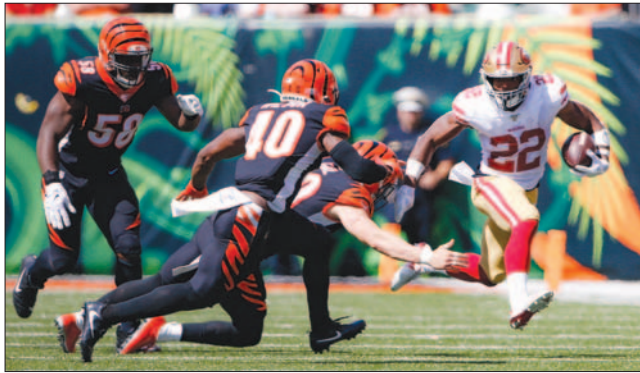
Coleman signed a two-year, \$8.5 million contract this offseason but sprained his ankle in the season opener at Tampa Bay and will be sidelined for at least a few weeks. That opened the door for the cheaper crop of backs to step up and they are making the most of their opportunities.

"I always look at how much they get that we block for and then they are paid for what they get after. All three of our guys broke a lot of tackles and did a great job," coach Kyle Shanahan said. "If you want one guy to do it all on his own, you might have to always go for a top-five pick and you're going to be disappointed until Barry Sanders comes around. I never feel like running the ball with just one guy. It's got to take everyone."

Breida is one of four backs to average at least 5.0 yards per carry the past three years with a minimum of 250 attempts, showing the patience to find the hole in San Francisco's zone-run-



San Francisco 49ers running back Raheem Mostert has 22 carries for 123 yards in his team's first two games.



PHOTOS BY GARY LANDERS/AP

San Francisco 49ers running back Matt Breida, right, is one of four backs on the team to average at least 5.0 yards per carry the past three years with a minimum of 250 attempts.

ning scheme and the speed to break long runs when he gets the chance.

Breida has 11 runs of at least 20 yards the past two seasons, trailing only former top-10 picks Saquon Barkley, Todd Gurley and Ezekiel Elliott and second-round-er Nick Chubb.

He had 12 carries for 121 yards last week and has been at his best when Shanahan has been able to limit his playing time to make sure he doesn't wear down.

"He always hits the right hole and that's why he was hard to get off the field last year, even when he wasn't always 100%," Shanahan said. "Breida's also as tough as any running back I've been around, but it's also very important to keep him fresh."

That was difficult at times last year but was possible in large

part last week because of the emergence of Mostert, a special teams standout who carried the ball only eight times his first three seasons in the NFL. But he showed flashes last season with 28 carries for 250 yards during a four-game stretch that ended when he broke his arm against the Raiders.

Mostert is healthy again and off to a good start this year with 22 carries for 123 yards the first two weeks, to go along with a 39-yard TD on a screen pass last week.

"They didn't really know our abilities," Mostert said of the scouts who overlooked him and Breida. "It was pretty cool, going out there and competing together and doing what we love to do and showing we can play. We were just having fun."

Wilson began this season on

the practice squad after providing a late-season spark last year. He got called up last week to replace Coleman and showed the toughness to provide two TD runs in the red zone.

The success of that running game played a big role in Garoppolo's success last week. He went 10-for-10 for 213 yards and two TDs for a perfect passer rating of 158.3 when using play action against the Bengals, according to Pro Football Focus.

"When you rush the ball for 250 yards, that makes everything a lot easier," Garoppolo said. "Those guys up front, selling the run, getting downhill on guys, the defense has to respect the run when you're running it for whatever, 10 yards a carry, something like that. Just all those things coming together."

## Battered birds: Injury-depleted Eagles nix practice, hold walkthrough instead

By ROB MAADDI  
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — With two games in five days coming up, the Philadelphia Eagles eased into preparations.

Coach Doug Pederson canceled practice Wednesday and the injury-plagued team held a walkthrough instead. Six players didn't participate and six others were limited.

"I want these guys as fresh as possible obviously for these next two weeks," Pederson said. "I have to think of the big picture here, obviously. It's early in our season, keeping guys as fresh as possible now so we can make a push later in the season. So that's also a factor in this decision."

Wide receivers DeSean Jackson and Alshon Jeffery, tight end Dallas Goedert, running back Corey Clement and defensive tackle Tim Jernigan were hurt in a 24-20 loss at Atlanta.

Quarterback Carson Wentz took a hard shot to the chest and was later checked for a concussion but he said he's fine. Jackson and Jeffery played only a few snaps against the Falcons before going to the sideline. Jackson has an abdominal strain and Jeffery has a calf strain. Goedert was ruled out before

the game started because of a calf injury. Clement injured his shoulder on a kickoff return. Jernigan broke his foot and will be out for a while.

The Eagles (1-1) host the Detroit Lions (1-0-1) on Sunday. They visit the Packers (2-0) on Thursday night the following week.

"We understand that we could miss a player or two, but at the same time, we can't focus on that," Pederson said.

"We have to get the next guy ready to go, and we go in and coach that player up and get him prepared. But from a game-plan standpoint, we're playing a good football team in the Lions, and they're coming off a victory, and we have to be prepared."

Despite missing three of his top five receivers, Wentz rallied the Eagles from a 17-6 deficit and helped them take a 20-17 lead over the Falcons in the fourth quarter. After the defense allowed a go-ahead score, Wentz nearly gave Philadelphia the lead again with less than two minutes left but Nelson Agholor dropped a pass that would've gone for a 60-yard score.

"Nelly's great. He's the ultimate team guy," Wentz said. "He'll do whatever is asked of him. Obviously people look at the drop, but he made a lot of plays and helped choreograph the offense."



JOHN ANNIS/AP

Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz, right, takes a hit from Atlanta Falcons linebacker Deion Jones. The Eagles, beset by injuries, canceled practice Wednesday.

NFL



### Detroit Lions (1-0-1) at Philadelphia Eagles (1-1)

AFN-Atlantic  
7 p.m. Sunday CET  
2 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: 15-15-2.

**Last meeting:** Lions beat Eagles 24-23, Oct. 9, 2016.

**Notes:** Lions have won past two meetings of series. ... Lions quarterback Matthew Stafford passed for 245 and two TDs last week against the Chargers. He has 28 fourth-quarter comebacks since 2009, the most in the NFL. ... Wide receiver Kenny Golladay tied career high with eight catches and had 117 receiving yards and a TD. ... Wide receiver Danny Amendola, now with the Lions, had eight catches for 152 yards in Super Bowl LII against the Eagles while with the Patriots. ... Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz passed for 231 yards and had two TDs last week (one passing, one rushing). ... RB Darren Sproles has three TDs in four career games against the Lions. ... Wide receiver Alshon Jeffery has 633 receiving yards and five TD catches in seven games against the Lions.



### Houston Texans (1-1) at Los Angeles Chargers (1-1)

AFN-Sports  
10:25 p.m. Sunday CET  
5:25 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Chargers lead 4-1.

**Last meeting:** Chargers beat Texans 21-13, Nov. 27, 2016.

**Notes:** Chargers have won last four games in the series after dropping first meeting. ... Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson completed 16 of 29 passes for 159 yards and rushed for a TD last week against Jaguars. ... Running back Carlos Hyde led team with 90 rushing yards against Jaguars. ... Linebackers Zach Cunningham had sack and team-high nine tackles last week. ... Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers passed for 293 yards last week and has a 120.6 career rating against Texans, second highest against any opponent. ... Running back Austin Ekeler had 133 scrimmage yards and a rushing TD last week against Lions. ... Wide receiver Keenan Allen led Chargers with eight catches for 98 yards last week. ... Wide receiver Mike Williams had a career-high 83 receiving yards last week.

## WEEK 3 TELEVISED GAMES

### MARQUEE MATCHUP

# Baltimore Ravens (2-0) at Kansas City Chiefs (2-0)

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m. Sunday CET; 2 a.m. Monday JKT

**SERIES RECORD:** Chiefs lead 5-3.  
**LAST MEETING:** Chiefs beat Ravens 27-24, Dec. 9, 2018.

**RAVENS OFFENSE:** OVERALL (1), RUSH (1), PASS (4).

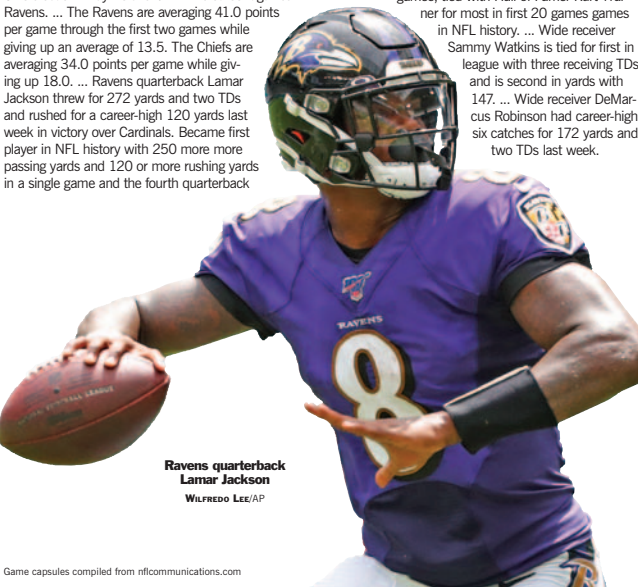
**RAVENS DEFENSE:** OVERALL (2), RUSH (1), PASS (18).

**CHIEFS OFFENSE:** OVERALL (3), RUSH (26), PASS (1).

**CHIEFS DEFENSE:** OVERALL (19), RUSH (13), PASS (20).

**STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES:** Chiefs have won past two games in series. ... Ravens coach John Harbaugh is 2-2 in his career against Chiefs, while Chiefs coach Andy Reid is 4-1 in his career against Ravens. ... The Ravens are averaging 41.0 points per game through the first two games while giving up an average of 13.5. The Chiefs are averaging 34.0 points per game while giving up 18.0. ... Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson threw for 272 yards and two TDs and rushed for a career-high 120 yards last week in victory over Cardinals. Became first player in NFL history with 250 more passing yards and 120 or more rushing yards in a single game and the fourth quarterback

since 1970 with two career games of 115 or more rushing yards. Since entering the league in 2018, has the most yards rushing among quarterbacks with 821. ... Rookie wide receiver Marquise Brown had eight catches for 86 yards last week. Has 233 receiving yards, the most among rookies. ... Tight end Mark Andrews had eight catches for a career-high 112 yards and a TD last week. Leads all tight ends with 220 receiving yards this season. ... Cornerback Brandon Carr led team seven tackles, a sack and a pass deflection last week. ... Chiefs have scored 25 or more points in 24 straight games, the longest streak in NFL history. ... Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes passed for 443 yards and four TDs last week in win over Raiders. Has thrown for 300 or more yards in 12 of 19 career games, tied with Hall of Famer Kurt Warner for most in first 20 games games in NFL history. ... Wide receiver Sammy Watkins is tied for first in league with three receiving TDs and is second in yards with 147. ... Wide receiver DeMarcus Robinson had career-high six catches for 172 yards and two TDs last week.



Ravens quarterback  
Lamar Jackson  
WUPOO LEE/AP

Game capsules compiled from nflcommunications.com



### Pittsburgh Steelers (0-2) at San Francisco 49ers (2-0)

AFN-Sports2  
10:25 p.m. Sunday CET  
5:25 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: 49ers lead 11-10.

**Last meeting:** Steelers beat 49ers 43-18, Sept. 20, 2015.

**Notes:** Steelers have won two of past three in series. ... Steelers quarterback Mason Rudolph makes first career start after starting quarterback Ben Roethlisberger was lost for the season with an elbow injury during Week 2 loss to the Seahawks. Rudolph completed 12 of 19 passes for 112 yards and two TDs after replacing Roethlisberger. ... Wide receiver Juju Smith-Schuster had five catches for team-high 84 yards last week. ... 49ers quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo passed for 297 yards and three TDs last week in rout of Bengals. ... Running back Matt Breida rushed for 121 yards against Bengals, his fourth career 100-yard game. ... Running back Raheem Mostert has 83 rushing yards. ... Rookie wide receiver Deebo Samuel had 87 receiving yards at a TD.



### Los Angeles Rams (2-0) at Cleveland Browns (1-1)

AFN-Sports  
2 a.m. Monday CET  
9 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Rams lead 11-9.

**Last meeting:** Rams beat Browns 24-6, Dec. 25, 2015.

**Notes:** Rams have won past two meetings. ... Rams quarterback Jared Goff passed for 283 yards and a TD last week in win over Saints. ... Running back Todd Gurley has 57 scrimmage TDs, fifth-most by a player in his first 60 career games since 1970. ... Wide receiver Cooper Kupp had 120 receiving yards in Week 2, his fourth career 100-yard game. ... Browns quarterback Baker Mayfield passed for 325 yards and a TD last week in win over Jets. ... Running back Nick Chubb had 98 scrimmage yards and a rushing TD last week. ... Wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. led team with six catches for 161 yards and a TD last week, including a career-long 89-yard TD reception. ... Defensive end Myles Garrett had three sacks last week.

## EXPANDED STANDINGS

### American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East	North	South	West	PA	PF	PA	Home	Away	Div
New England	2	0	0	1.000	76	3	1	0	1-0	1-0	1-0	2-0	0-0	0-0
Buffalo	2	0	0	1.000	45	30	0	0-0	2-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0
N.Y. Jets	0	2	0	.000	19	40	0	2-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Miami	0	2	0	.000	10	102	0	2-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
<b>North</b>														
Baltimore	1	1	0	.500	41	42	1	0-0	0-1	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0
Indianapolis	1	1	0	.500	43	47	0	0-0	0-1	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0
Tennessee	1	1	0	.500	60	32	0	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0
Jacksonville	0	2	0	.000	38	53	0	1-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
<b>South</b>														
Baltimore	2	0	0	1.000	82	27	1	0-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0
Cleveland	1	1	0	.500	36	46	0	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Cincinnati	0	2	0	.000	37	62	0	1-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Pittsburgh	0	2	0	.000	29	61	0	1-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
<b>West</b>														
Kansas City	2	0	0	1.000	60	36	0	0-0	2-0	2-0	0-0	2-0	0-0	0-0
Oakland	1	1	0	.500	34	44	1	1-0	0-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0
L.A. Chargers	1	1	0	.500	40	37	1	0-0	0-1	1-0	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0
Denver	0	2	0	.000	30	40	0	1-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0

### National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East	North	South	West	PA	PF	PA	Home	Away	Div
Dallas	2	0	0	1.000	66	38	1	0-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	2-0	0-0	0-0
Philadelphia	1	1	0	.500	52	51	1	0-0	0-1	0-0	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0
N.Y. Giants	0	2	0	.000	31	63	0	1-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Washington	0	2	0	.000	48	63	0	1-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
<b>North</b>														
Tampa Bay	1	1	0	.500	37	45	0	1-0	0-1	0-0	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0
Atlanta	1	1	0	.500	36	48	1	0-0	0-1	0-0	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0
New Orleans	1	1	0	.500	39	55	1	0-0	0-1	0-0	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0
Carolina	0	2	0	.000	41	50	0	2-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
<b>South</b>														
Green Bay	2	0	0	1.000	31	19	1	0-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	2-0	0-0	0-0
Detroit	1	0	1	.750	40	37	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0
Minnesota	0	1	0	.500	44	33	1	0-0	0-1	0-0	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0
Chicago	1	1	0	.500	19	24	0	1-0	0-0	0-0	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0
<b>West</b>														
San Francisco	2	0	0	1.000	72	34	0	0-0	2-0	2-0	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0
L.A. Rams	2	0	0	1.000	57	36	1	0-0	1-0	1-0	2-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Seattle	2	0	0	1.000	49	46	1	0-0	1-0	0-0	2-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Arizona	0	1	1	.250	44	50	0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0

## ALSO ON AFN

Cincinnati Bengals (0-2) at Buffalo Bills (2-0), AFN-Sports2, 7 p.m. Sunday CET; 2 a.m. Monday JKT

New York Giants (2-0) at Tampa Bay Buccaneers (1-1), AFN-Atlantic, 10 p.m. Sunday CET; 5 a.m. Monday JKT

Chicago Bears (1-1) at Washington Redskins (0-2), AFN-Sports, 2:15 a.m. Tuesday CET; 9:15 a.m. Tuesday JKT

## REST OF THE SCHEDULE

Miami (0-2) at Dallas (2-0)  
Oakland (1-1) at Minnesota (1-1)  
Atlanta (1-1) at Indianapolis (1-1)  
Denver (0-2) at Green Bay (2-0)  
N.Y. Jets (0-2) at New England (2-0)  
Carolina (0-2) at Arizona (0-1-1)  
New Orleans (1-1) at Seattle (2-0)

## SPORTS



CURTIS COMPTON, ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION, ABOVE, AND PAUL SANCYA, RIGHT/AP

Above: Georgia wide receiver Dominick Blaylock celebrates his 60-yard touchdown reception last week against Arkansas State in Athens, Ga. The third-ranked Bulldogs host No. 7 Notre Dame on Saturday. Right: Notre Dame linebacker Bo Bauer shouts after making a tackle against New Mexico last week.

## The 300 Club

Astros' Cole reaches strikeout milestone in victory over Rangers » **MLB, Page 55**

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Dogfight

Irish roll into Georgia for top-10 showdown

BY PAUL NEWBERRY  
Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga.

**T**he Georgia players know it's a big game. They can read the polls. They can hear all the chatter around campus.

That doesn't mean they're well-versed on Notre Dame's storied past.

George Gipp?

"Uhh, no," tight end Eli Wolf conceded Monday.

The Four Horsemen?

"That rings a little bit more of a bell," Wolf said, dropping his head and chuckling a bit but offering no further details.

Rudy?

"Yeah, I've seen 'Rudy,'" he shot back quickly, clearly proud of himself for knowing at least the Hollywood version of a revered chapter in Fighting Irish history. "Some people say they cry at the end. I was never one to get too emotional, but it's a good movie."

**'As far as the stage, the biggest thing you can do is let your players relax and play.'**

Kirby Smart  
Georgia coach

SEE ROLL ON PAGE 56

## Inside:

- Several ACC teams are already among most penalized teams in nation, Page 57



**Busch criticism spotlights divide in NASCAR » Page 60**

